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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE

COMBINED DISTRICTS

OF

EAST HERTS AND ESSEX

FOR 1925.

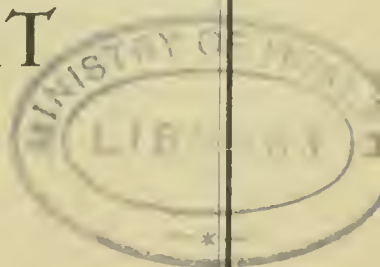
ROBERT AYTON DUNN, M.D., D.Hy., D.P.H.

GEO. CREASEY & SONS, PRINTERS AND BOOKBINDERS,
HERTFORD, HERTS.

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HERTFORD,

May, 1926



Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Combined Districts of East Herts & Essex.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg herewith to present for your consideration my Annual Report. It is six years since the last survey reported was issued. Acting on the Memorandum of the Ministry of Health the present one has been arranged to suit the headings which they drew up.

PHYSICAL & SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE COMBINED DISTRICT.

The Combined Sanitary District measures from North to South roughly 20 miles, and from East to West 15 miles. It comprises four Urban Districts (the Borough of Hertford, the Urban Districts of Bishop's Stortford, Hoddesdon and Ware), and five Rural Districts (those of Buntingford, Hadham, Hertford and Ware in East Herts and Stansted on the western boundary of Essex).

The Population at the Census of 1911 was 67,148.

“ “ “ “ 1921 was 66,840.

The area in acres is 151,390.

The District is roughly fan shaped, and converges towards the South.

It rises steadily towards the North, where it reaches to 528ft. above sea level in the neighbourhood of Sandon Church. It falls more particularly towards the South, and in the parish of Wormley is only about 80ft. above sea level. There are two main streams, the Lea and the Stort, which join near Broxbourne station. The former rises near Luton and flows more or less from West to East, receiving near Hertford the waters of the Mimram from Welwyn (W.), the Beane from Walkern (N.N.W.), the Rib from Buntingford (N.N.E.), and near Stanstead Abbots the Ash from Hadham (N.N.E.) The Stort, rising in Essex somewhere north of the boundary of the district, flows from North to South. For a large part of its course it forms more or less

the boundary between Herts and Essex. After receiving the Stort, the Lea runs due South to join the Thames at Blackwall. Both the Lea and the Stort are navigable for barges, the former as far as Hertford and the latter as far as Bishop's Stortford. Both valleys being wide and shallow are liable to flooding. This causes considerable loss and inconvenience at times.

The soil is very variable. It would seem to be chiefly chalk, overlaid with clay or gravel in varying thicknesses. In places the chalk crops through the surface. In part of the Stansted District (Henham), there is a very considerable thickness of clay.

The industry of the District is mainly agricultural.

Generally the Poor Law relief, which for some years had shown a steady decrease in numbers (but latterly an increase in actual expenditure), remains fairly stationary.

HOSPITALS. — There are two General Hospitals within the District. One is the Hertford County Hospital at Hertford with 106 beds, the other of 28 beds is at Bishop's Stortford. Patients in the north-western part of the district usually seek relief at the Hitchin County Hospital, whilst those in the extreme South attend at the Tottenham or one of the London Hospitals.

VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1925.

				Whole District	4 Urban Districts	5 Rural Districts
Population*	...	...	...	67,166	31,301	35,865
Total Births	...	...	...	1,044	480	564
Birth Rate†	...	...	...	15.5	15.3	15.7
Total Deaths	...	...	...	797	380	417
Death Rate‡	...	...	...	11.8	12.1	11.6
Zymotic Death Rate§	...	...	...	0.09	0.16	0.02
Diarrhœa	„	„	†	0.03	0.06	nil.
Phthisis	„	„	†	0.62	0.57	0.65
Cancer	„	„	†	1.65	1.69	1.64
Infant Mortality (per 1,000)						
births	...	...	...	43.1	56.2	31.9

* Estimated for middle of year by Registrar General

† Per 1000 of the Population.

The provisional figures for England and Wales are as follows:—

Birth Rate, 18.3; Death Rate, 12.2; Infant Mortality, 75.

The Vital Statistics may be considered fairly satisfactory. They are not so good as those of the previous year. For example the Birth Rate has again fallen in the Urban Districts though remaining the same in the Rural Districts. There is not much difference in the Death Rates, for whereas that for the Urbans is somewhat higher, that for the Rurals is correspondingly lower. The Infant Mortality figure has risen about 16 per 1000 births in the Urban Districts but has fallen in the Rural Districts, viz: to 31·9. This is the lowest figure I have yet recorded during my 25 years of office.

The deaths from Cancer are somewhat fewer in both Urban and Rural Districts. The deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis remain about the same as in the previous year. The deaths from Zymotic disease only numbered 6 (5 in the Urban and 1 in the Rural Districts); those from Diarrhœa only 2—both in Urban Districts.

VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE 25 YEARS, 1900-1924.

POPULATION.

			Census of 1891	Census of 1901	Census of 1911	Census of 1921
4 Urban Districts	...	...	24,927	26,819	30,145	30,918
5 Rural Districts	...	...	*40,524	35,895	37,005	35,922

*NOTE.—Before 1901 what is now Sawbridgeworth Urban District was included in the Hadham Rural District. It is not in my Combined District.

AVERAGE POPULATION FOR THE 5 YEARS.

		1900-1904	1905-1909	1910-1914	*1915-1919	1920-1924
4 Urban Districts	...	27,049	27,989	30,257	27,618	30,915
5 Rural Districts	...	36,479	35,605	36,768	32,910	35,516

*For purposes of calculating the Death Rate.

4 Urban Districts	for purposes of calculating	29,586
5 Rural Districts	Birth Rate	35,296

BIRTH RATE PER 1000 POPULATION.

4 Urban Districts	...	24.9	24.58	20.1	16.9	18.4
		1900-1904.	1905-1909	1910-1914.	*1915-1919.	1920-1924.
5 Rural Districts	...	22.1	21.6	19.1	15.8	18.5

DEATH RATE PER 1000 POPULATION.

4 Urban Districts	...	14.8	13.9	12.06	14.7	11.5
5 Rural Districts	...	12.8	13.1	11.7	13.9	12.1

INFANTILE MORTALITY PER 1000 BIRTHS.

4 Urban Districts	...	109.6	101.7	78	75.5	46.3
5 Rural Districts	...	78.8	73	63.8	63.2	45.3

CANCER DEATH RATE PER 1000 POPULATION.

4 Urban Districts	...	0.96	1.3	1.4	1.6	1.61
5 Rural Districts	...	0.97	1.11	1.23	1.51	1.59

PHTHISIS DEATH RATE PER 1000 POPULATION.

4 Urban Districts	...	1.12	0.94	0.8	0.91	0.64
5 Rural Districts	...	0.81	0.73	0.6	0.8	0.55

The above Vital Statistics may prove of some interest. They show :—

1. As regards Population, the steady increase in the Urban Districts, whilst in the Rural Districts it remains fairly stationary as seen by the Census figures.

Here I wish to draw special attention to the Average Population for the 5 years 1915-1919. This figure was estimated by the Registrar General. For this he excluded (for purposes of all Death Rates but *not* Birth Rates) the large number of persons calculated to be away on war service. This naturally caused an abnormally low Population. A glance at the above table will show the result.

The Death Rate and those from Cancer and Phthisis rose very distinctly—the Infantile Mortality figure, being calculated on per 1000 Births, was however not affected. A little consideration makes it obvious that figures taken during this period are misleading for *purposes of comparison*. There is always a very

small mortality at those ages during which a man is fit for military duty, and further those enlisted were obviously picked lives and not likely to die from either Phthisis or Cancer. I make these observations lest it should be thought that the Great War was in itself responsible for the unsatisfactory figures.

2. As regards Birth Rate—This shows a steady decline during the whole period of 25 years.
3. The Death Rate also shows a steady decline, which is very satisfactory. The exceptional years 1915-1919 are explained above.
4. The Infantile Mortality figures are certainly the most comforting from a Public Health point of view. A chart which I have prepared giving the variation for each of the 25 years demonstrates this even more clearly than the Table.
5. The Death Rate from Phthisis (or Pulmonary Tuberculosis) has and is apparently steadily falling.
6. The Death Rate from Cancer as is generally known shows perhaps a slow but very consistent rise. That the figure for 1920-1925 is no higher than that for 1915-1919 causes me no satisfaction. I look on the figure for 1915-1919 as inflated for the reasons given above.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

These are dealt with in detail under the various districts. It will be sufficient to state here that generally:—

The water supply is from shallow wells, that is from pockets of gravel or sand in the clay, or from deep wells sunk into the chalk. Nearly all the water is distinctly hard, some very hard. None of it appears to have any plumbo-solvent action.

RIVERS and STREAMS. The powers for dealing with any pollution of the streams in the district are vested in the Lea Conservancy Board.

DRAINAGE and SEWERAGE are in use and **SCAVENGING** is carried out in all the Urban Districts and a few of the larger villages. In other villages or isolated Hamlets, drainage to cesspools is the rule, and pail closets are provided. The old pit closet is fortunately becoming rarer.

THE SANITARY INSPECTION of the district is being duly carried out. Since the erection of the new Council houses, most of the Inspectors have to spend some part of their time over this new property:—*e.g.* in minor repairs which, as I anticipated in my 1919 Report, are in frequent evidence. These are usually due to the cheeseparating policy adopted in their erection. Another matter which has occupied a considerable amount of their time is meat inspection.

SCHOOLS. Your Medical Officer of Health, with your permission acts as Assistant School Medical Officer for part of his district under the Herts County Council. Recently many improvements, which have long been necessary, have been carried out. During the year two new schools have been erected by the County Council to replace two most unsatisfactory buildings, and a third is in course of construction.

FOOD.

MILK. It would appear that during the past 5 years there has been a slight increase in the number of purveyors of milk in some of the districts and the supply is well maintained.

A new Milk Bill has come into operation during the past year, viz.:—The Milk and Dairies (Consolidated) Act, 1925. This Act, in conjunction with the Milk and Dairies (Amendment) Act of 1922, and the introduction of the Tuberculosis Order of 1925 affecting live stock, will greatly assist in the control of the production and distribution of milk, and the elimination of Tuberculous Milk.

Under the Milk Special Designations Order of 1923 which makes provision for the production and sale of Graded Milk a few traders have been granted dealer's licences.

MEAT. The proper inspection and control of meat is extremely difficult in a district where no public abattoir exists, but only private slaughterhouses are in use.

The introduction of the Meat Regulations of 1924 has been a distinct advantage inasmuch as the notification enables the carrying out of a more systematic inspection of carcasses more especially in the Urban Districts. In the Rural Districts a not uncommon experience is for an Inspector to find, after travelling several miles, that the slaughtering has been postponed for some reason or other.

The Sale of Food and Drugs Acts are administered by the County Council.

PREVALENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

There has been a further fall in the Diphtheria notifications, which only numbered 17 throughout the whole district, 10 being in the Urban and 7 in the Rural districts. This compares with 24 in 1924 and 51 in 1923.

The notifications of Scarlet Fever are again almost the same as in the two previous years, viz., 100 as compared with 103 in 1925 and the same number in 1924. But whereas in these two years the numbers were almost identical, in both the Urban and Rural districts in 1925 the number was 25 for the Urban and 75 for the Rural districts.

There were only two notifications of Enteric Fever, both in Urban districts. There appears to have been no outbreaks of Paratyphoid B which has largely influenced the figures of the past 5 years.

The following Table, showing the prevalence of these three infectious diseases for five 5-year periods, may be of interest:—

		1900-1904	1905-1909	1910-1914	1915-1919	1920-1924
<i>Scarlet Fever.</i>	Urban Districts	526	238	155	173	260
	Rural „	484	324	388	204	446
	Whole „	1010	562	543	377	706
<i>Diphtheria.</i>	Urban Districts	140	70	149	355	250
	Rural „	234	98	91	276	139
	Whole „	374	168	240	631	389
<i>Enteric Fever.</i>	Urban Districts	51	24	32	7	45
	Rural „	38	14	9	6	28
	Whole „	89	38	41	13	73

A few remarks on the above Table may not be out of place.

Dealing with Scarlet Fever it is a little disappointing to find that with all the precautions taken (and nearly every patient is removed to the Isolation Hospital) the incidence of the disease is not less at the present time. When one views a table showing the *yearly* notifications one is struck with the way the disease occurs in periodic waves. These are not regular but mostly show about 3 years of heavy

incidence followed by about 3 years of a much lighter character. I think there can be no doubt that at the present time the disease is of a much milder type, which naturally tends to its increased spread for it is much more difficult to recognise. I myself am coming to the conclusion that like some other diseases it is frequently spread by "carriers."

The mortality from Scarlet Fever is now almost negligible.

DIPHTHERIA. Though my impression was that this disease was on the decrease, the figures do not bear this out. It is true that the numbers are very much less during the last 4 years, and in 1925 were the lowest on my record with the exception of the year 1906 (17 compared with 15). The large increase in the notifications during the war period is very noticeable. I am inclined to attribute this to the large movement which took place amongst the population. I have an idea that a population get inured to the diphtheria bacillus which is constantly in its midst, but that if it is brought in contact with an entirely different strain a largish outbreak will then occur. As in the case of Scarlet Fever, this disease, thanks largely to the use of anti-toxin, has lost most of its terrors.

ENTERIC FEVER. This disease, at least so far as my districts are concerned, would appear to be steadily decreasing. What caused the numbers to go up in the five year period 1920-1924 was the appearance of another and closely allied disease called Paratyphoid B—a disease I tried to deal with at some length in my last Annual Report.

With regard to SMALL POX I am thankful to say that the disease has not appeared in the district for some years, not since 1919. The continued prevalence of it in some midland and northern counties makes me fear that sooner or later it will be re-introduced. Owing to the continued neglect of vaccination, an outbreak, should it unfortunately occur, is likely to prove a very expensive matter.

From the years 1919 to 1925 (inclusive) the total number of deaths from Zymotic diseases only numbered 113 (58 in the Urban Districts and 55 in the Rural Districts), whilst those from diarrhoea for the same period were 18 and 6 respectively, a total of only 24 in 7 years.

The treatment of Tuberculous and Venereal Diseases are carried out by the County Councils, as is also Maternity and Child Welfare in Hertfordshire.

SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

This is dealt with in detail under the reports to the various Councils.

1. Staff. There is one Medical Officer of Health and eight Sanitary Inspectors. One Sanitary Inspector acts for two Rural Districts, Hadham and Stansted. In all but two of the districts, Hertford and Bishop's Stortford, the Sanitary Inspector is also the Surveyor.

2. There are three Infectious Hospitals in the district, at Hertford, Bishop's Stortford and Buntingford. Two Small-pox Hospitals have also been provided, one near Hertford and the other near Bishop's Stortford.

3. There are no Local Acts in force in the district.

4. Arrangements have been made for the bacteriological examination of "swabs" from doubtful or suspected "carrier" cases of diphtheria. The Herts County Council through their Medical Officer, arrange for sputum to be examined, and to have a bacteriological Specialist down from London to assist in the diagnosis of doubtful cases of Cerebro-Spinal Fever.

HOUSING.

During the past years 1919-1924, each of the District Councils has completed its original housing scheme. By this means 178 Council Cottages have been erected in the Urban Districts and 440 in the Rural Districts. Besides these, 168 new houses have been built by private enterprise in the Urban Districts and 180 in the Rurals, making a total of 980 altogether. Several Councils are now engaged in erecting still further cottages. Even now difficulty is experienced in obtaining the necessary skilled labour, especially plasterers and, to a less extent, bricklayers.

Although the cost of production has fallen to a certain extent, cottages to satisfy the requirements of the poorer labouring class (especially the farm labourer), and which can be let at an economic figure, seem impossible to erect. The result is that unfit houses cannot be closed as there is nowhere for the occupiers to go to.

A further drawback to the necessarily high rents is that a great many tenants sublet some of their rooms and overcrowding is apt to ensue. There are no signs at present of persons wishing to "move up" to a better house and so release a less expensive cottage for their poorer neighbours.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

ROBERT AYTON DUNN.

chief industries of the district are breweries, maltings, printing and envelope works, a gramophone works, a biscuit manufactory and a leather and glove works. A brush factory, established in 1919, now employs a considerable number of hands.

1. General Statistics.

Area	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,501 Acres.
Population (Census 1921)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10,702
Population (estimated by Registrar General)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10,990
Number of inhabited Houses (Census 1921)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,343
Number of Families or separate Occupiers (Census 1921)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,448
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£55,787
Sum represented by a penny Rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£227

2. Extracts from Vital Statistics.

FOR THE YEAR 1925.

Birth Rate (per 1,000 population)				...	...	...	...	15·7
Death Rate (per 1,000 population)				...	...	...	...	12·8
„	„	„	(after correction by factor)				11·28	
Infant Death Rate (per 1,000 births)				...	...	...	...	63·5
				Male.	Female.	Total.		
Births	...	legitimate	...	79	85	164)		173
		illegitimate	...	6	3	9)		
Infant Deaths		legitimate	...	4	7	11)		11
		illegitimate	...	—	—	—)		
Total Deaths				...	...	...	...	141
Deaths of Women during Childbirth				...	((a) from Sepsis (b) from other causes			nil. nil.
Deaths from Measles				..	...	...	...	nil.
„	„	Whooping Cough		...	...	...	...	1
„	„	Diarrhoea (under two years of age)			...	...	...	1
„	„	Cancer	...	...	...	...	...	19
„	„	Phthisis	...	...	...	...	...	8

Of the total number of deaths (141), 82 were of persons 65 years of age and upwards, viz.:—65—70 twelve, 70—80 thirty-seven, 80—90 twenty-eight, 90 and upwards five.

Causes of Death (Civilians only) during 1925.

						MALES.	FEMALES.
ALL CAUSES	...	...	...	...	...	67	74
1. Enteric Fever...	...	...	...	...	...
2. Small-pox	...	...	...	...	...
3. Measles	...	...	...	...	...
4. Scarlet Fever...	...	...	...	...	...
5. Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...		1
6. Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...
7. Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	2	2
8. Encephalitis Lethargica	...	...	...	...	...	1	
9. Meningococcal Meningitis	...	...	...	...	...
10. Tuberculosis of Respiratory system	...	...	...	...	...	3	5
11. Other Tubercular Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	2	
12. Cancer, malignant disease	...	...	...	...	...	5	14
13. Rheumatic Fever	...	...	...	...	...	2	
14. Diabetes	...	...	...	...	...
15. Cerebral Hæmorrhage	...	...	...	...	...	5	5
16. Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	...	7	4
17. Arterio-sclerosis	...	...	...	...	...	2	4
18. Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	7	8
19. Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	1	4
20. Other respiratory diseases	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
21. Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	...	...	...	...	...	3	
22. Diarrhœa (under two years)	...	...	...	...	...		1
23. Appendicitis	...	...	...	...	...	1	
24. Cirrhosis of liver	...	...	...	...	...
25. Acute and chronic Nephritis	...	...	...	...	...	3	
26. Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	...	...	...
27. Accidents and Diseases of Parturition	...	...	...	...	...
28. Congenital Debility, Premature Birth, &c.	...	...	...	...	...	3	6
29. Suicide	...	...	...	...	...	2	
30. Other deaths from Violence	...	...	...	...	...	1	2
31. Other defined Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	14	17
32. Causes ill-defined or unknown	...	...	...	...	...	2	
Special Causes (included above)	...	...	...	...	...
Polio-myelitis	...	...	...	...	...
Polio-Encephalitis	...	...	...	...	...
Anthrax	...	...	...	...	...	1	

The Vital Statistics are not so satisfactory as those of 1924. The Birth Rate continues to decline. The Death Rate is more than 2 per 1,000 higher. It will be noticed in the following Table that the number of female deaths has very largely increased (from 51 to 74), whereas that of the males only by three. Possibly due to climatic conditions the deaths of old people from 70 years and upwards, especially between 80 and 90, have risen from 46 to 70. After using the factor for correction the Death Rate becomes 11·28. The Infant Mortality figure, too, is not so good. But I find on examining these deaths in detail that 8 out of 11 were due to premature birth (four of these were 2 pairs of twins born at the seventh month), whilst another died as the result of an injury at birth. There were only 2 deaths from Zymotic disease, viz. :—1 each from Measles and Diarrhœa.

The following figures may prove of interest. In the first place are given the *actual number* of births, deaths, &c., as it is often difficult to correctly estimate a population during the intercensus periods :—

	Year	1925	Average 5 years 1920-1924	Average 5 years 1915-1919	Average 15 years 1900-1914
Births	...	173	197	173	225
Deaths	...	141	125	143	137
Infant Deaths		11	8·6	15	22·5
Phthisis	„	8	8	9·6	9·7
Cancer	„	19	16·4	16·6	15·0
Zymotic	„	2	—	—	—
Diarrhœa	„	1	1·2	—	—

The following gives the average Rate per 1,000 Population, or in the case of the Infant Mortality per 1,000 Births, for the 5 years—1920-1924 :—

Birth Rate	...	...	...	18·3	per 1000 Population.
Death Rate	...	...	...	11·6	„ „
„	„	from Phthisis	...	0·72	„ „
„	„	„ Cancer	...	1·5	„ „
„	„	„ Zymotic diseases	...	0·46	„ „
„	„	„ Diarrhœa	...	0·11	„ „
Infant Mortality	...	...	...	43·6	„ Births.

The amount of Poor Law relief does not show any material alteration.

There has been a considerable increase of late years in the activity (especially surgical) at the Hertford County Hospital. As has been the case at all similar institutions, owing to the cost of living and all other materials, a weekly charge has to be made on all patients admitted there.

The only noteworthy outbreak of sickness which has occurred in the Borough recently was that of Paratyphoid B at a residential school for girls. It appeared to consist of three separate outbreaks involving only one, then ten, then five patients.

The Ministry of Health kindly sent down one of their Medical Inspectors to assist me in making exhaustive inquiries into the origin of the disease, but in spite of every endeavour the actual cause remained unsolved.

General Provision of Health Services in the Area. .

The only Hospitals in the district are the County Hospital and the Isolation Hospital.

At the former, which consists of 106 beds, five are allocated to the Herts County Council for complicated maternity cases. Payments are also made to the Institution by the County Council for the treatment of tuberculous patients and for operations on school children for the removal of Tonsils and Adenoids.

The Isolation Hospital, now within the Borough, is under the control of a Joint Hospital Board and serves five districts, viz.:—Hertford Borough, Ware and Hoddesdon Urban Districts and the Rural Districts of Hertford and Ware. It contains 46 Beds. Since its inclusion in the Borough (in 1920) the drainage system has been re-modelled and now discharges into the Borough sewers. It formerly had a small irrigation area on which the sewage flowed after previous chemical treatment. A new boiler and Thresh disinfecter have recently been installed and other improvements carried out.

A Small-pox Hospital is situated in the neighbouring district of Hertford Rural and is available for the same five districts, and is under the same Joint Hospital Board.

Ambulance Facilities. A motor ambulance for Infectious disease is kept at the Isolation Hospital. The Herts County Council also have a motor ambulance for removing Tuberculous patients. During 1923 a motor ambulance was provided by the County Hospital for general use in the district.

Clinics and Treatment Centres. There is a Maternity and Child Welfare Centre, and a Tuberculosis Dispensary, both under the County Council. Venereal cases are, by the arrangement of the County Council, treated at the various London Hospitals. The County Council use the old Workhouse as a school for mentally defective children.

The Public Health Officers consist of a Medical Officer of Health (who acts for a combined district) and one Sanitary Inspector, who holds the qualification for Food and Meat Inspection. No clerical assistance is provided. Half the salary of both these officers is repaid by Exchequer grants.

PROFESSIONAL NURSING IN THE HOME.

Nursing. For the Borough and immediate neighbourhood, four nurses have been provided by the County Nursing Association. Two, who are Queen's Nurses, carry out the sick nursing, the school nursing, health visiting, attend at the Tuberculosis Dispensary and the Maternity and Child Welfare Centre. Of the other two one acts as Midwife only, and the other as Midwife, school nurse and sick nurse for a circumscribed area. Both attend the Welfare Centre. These are the only two midwives. None practise privately.

Chemical Work. Samples of water or milk or "Swabs" from doubtful or suspected "carrier" cases of Diphtheria are tested at a London Laboratory. There is also a small Laboratory at the Isolation Hospital. Diphtheria anti-toxin is kept at the Isolation Hospital, and is administered as soon as a diphtheria patient is admitted. Practically every case is isolated there.

Adoptive Acts. The Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890, and parts of the Public Health Amendment Act, 1907, and Public Health Act, 1925, have been adopted.

Sanitary Circumstances of the District.

WATER SUPPLY.—The Town Water Supply is from four deep wells sunk into the chalk. Three of these are within and one outside the Borough boundary. In two cases the motive power is derived exclusively from the rivers by means of water wheels. In another, the water power can be replaced by a gas engine when required; and in the fourth, an electric motor is used for driving the pumps. The water is hard and chalky, but has always proved to be of excellent

quality. The supply is constant, though in the higher parts of the Town, owing to want of pressure, there are sometimes periods of intermittency. There are very few private wells in use.

The whole question of an improved water supply is now under consideration.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.—The main river is the Lea which flows through the district from West to East. It receives, in the neighbourhood of Hertford, the following streams:—The Mimram, the Beane and the Rib. As before stated the Lea Conservancy Board are the authority for dealing with any pollution of rivers in this area.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.—The scwage from the Borough is collected at the works situated at the East end of the Town. Here, after being treated chemically, the effluent discharges into the Manifold Ditch, which, after about a mile, joins the Lea near Ware lock. The present system is to be replaced by the activated sludge process. The new works, which from various unforeseen circumstances progressed very slowly, are now well in hand and it is confidently expected that they will be in use by the autumn.

During the year 680 yards of 9in. and 12in. sewer were laid in Stanstead Road in connection with the new building scheme. Also 600 yards of 3in. to 6in. water main in the same estate.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.—This is on the water carriage system, the exceptions being about 10 houses so situated that they cannot be connected with the sewer, and a group of cottages some 24 in number in Ware Road. These cottages, which were outside the Borough until 1920, are provided with earth closets at the end of fairly long gardens (varying from 20 to 30 yards in length). The contents of the pails are emptied into holes at the far end of the garden. The owner of 20 of these cottages provides fresh lime for his tenants to be used as a disinfectant. Some little time after the extension of the Borough a sewer and water main were provided by the Corporation along this part of the Ware Road. Attempts have been made to persuade the owner to build new W.C.'s and connect them with the sewer. On two occasions recently your Sanitary Inspector and myself have visited this property but were unable to certify as to the existence of any nuisance. Considerable progress has been made of recent years in getting flushing cisterns provided to W.C.'s.

Scavenging. This is undertaken by the Corporation under the supervision of the Borough Surveyor. Until quite recently the refuse was disposed of in a two-wheeled destructor by arrangement with the Electricity Company. This agreement has now terminated and the refuse is being taken to a brickfield in the neighbouring district of Hertford Rural. This is stated to be only a temporary measure, but already grave complaints are being received by the Rural District Council from the residents of Hertingfordbury, in whose parish the brickfields are situated. I have pointed out that I consider this a very retrograde step and that some more sanitary methods should be adopted to dispose of the town's refuse.

Movable ashbins are now in general use in the Borough. Only some sixteen covered ashpits now remain.

Annual Report of the Sanitary Inspector for the Year 1925.

*To the Chairman and Members
of the Public Health Committee.*

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit to you the following report of the work done during the year ended 1925.

In accordance with the requirements of the Ministry of Health the particulars of the report are embodied in the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health.

GENERAL INFORMATION.

The particulars of inspections and action taken are as follows:—

				1925.	1921-5.
Dwelling Houses inspected	...	...	...	235	1191
General inspections	...	...	...	197	1064
Re-inspections and Visits	...	...	...	566	3627
Registered and Licensed Premises inspected	...	...	...	455	1653
Canal Boats inspected	...	...	...	4	21
Visits <i>re</i> cases of Infectious Disease	...	...	...	7	130
Miscellaneous inspections	...	...	...	164	524
Total	...	...	...	1628	8210

				1925.	1921-5.
Number of Letters sent ...	...	...	...	77	236
Number of Informal Notices ...	...	...	...	146	510
Number of Statutory Notices ...	...	...	...	6	111
Number of Prosecutions ...	...	...	...	—	2
Number of Improvements carried out ...	...	...	...	306	1853

The following is a tabulated statement of the improvements:—

Drains cleansed of obstructions ...	...	...	49	194
Drains provided or improved ...	...	...	13	113
W.C.'s reconstructed, repaired, etc. ...	...	...	24	150
Inspection Chambers provided or improved ...	...	...	4	21
New Waterclosets provided ...	...	...	—	3
Drains provided with efficient traps ...	...	...	4	25
Pail Closets—abolished ...	...	...	—	5
New Pans and Traps to waterclosets ...	...	...	8	88
Flushing cisterns provided to W.C.'s ...	...	...	3	29
Flushing cisterns repaired ...	...	...	18	101
Dustbins provided ...	...	...	34	236
Houses cleansed and renovated ...	...	...	21	156
Windows repaired and made to open ...	...	...	5	46
Walls and Ceilings repaired ...	...	...	18	133
Roofs and Spouting repaired ...	...	...	8	101
Dampness remedied ...	...	...	9	14
Floors repaired or relaid ...	...	...	19	72
New sinks and Waste Pipes ...	...	...	16	56
Offensive Accumulations removed ...	...	...	14	74
Nuisances from animals kept, abated ...	...	...	1	23
Miscellaneous ...	...	...	38	213
Total			306	1853

Premises disinfected after infectious Disease, &c. 17

The Borough Surveyor and Engineer has kindly supplied the following information:—

Houses erected and certified for occupation ...	42
Houses converted into Flats (2) ...	6
Houses connected with sewers ...	47

Summary of Routine Work done through the Sanitary
Inspector of the Borough of Hertford,
for the year 1925.

	Total for the year.	Observations.	1921-5.
Complaints received	34		175
Improvements carried out ...	306		1853
Informal Notices	146		510
Statutory Notices	6		111
Letters sent	77		236
Dwelling Houses Inspected ...	235		1191
Visits and re-inspections ...	927		4691
Visits <i>re</i> cases of Infectious Disease	7		130
Common Lodging Houses ...	1	37 inspections	183
Slaughterhouses	8	242 „	680
Cowkeepers and Cowsheds ...	7	27 „	176
Dairies and Milkshops	9	36 „	176
Bakehouses	14	37 „	160
Workshops, Workplaces, etc. ...	53	84 „	328
Canal Boats	4	4 „	25

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

JOHN BARNISH, A.R.S.I.,

Sanitary Inspector.

Smoke Abatement.

The Borough, not being an industrial centre, “smoke abatement” does not take up a serious amount of administrative time. There is in the Borough an Electricity Undertaking in connection with which considerable trouble has arisen for some years owing to periodic emissions of smoke. The works have been under constant observation and attempts have been made to secure abatement of any nuisance arising therefrom. Difficulty is experienced of a legal character; it appears that the undertaking is excluded from the provisions of the Public Health Act, 1875, by a private Act.

PREMISES CONTROLLED BY BYE-LAWS.

Common Lodging Houses.

Number on Register, December, 1924	...	...	...	1
“ “ “ 1925	...	...	...	1
“ of Inspections in 1925	...	...	...	37

The house is generally well kept; it is registered to accommodate 21 male lodgers.

The average number of men accommodated nightly was 16.

No notifications of illness have been received in connection with this Lodging House.

For other premises see para "Food."

Schools.

All the schools have been regularly inspected. Water has been laid on to each. During the past five years, one Infants' school has been permanently closed and the sanitary arrangements at two others have been re-modelled.

Housing.

1. General Housing Conditions.

2a. It would appear from the number of applications for the new Council cottages that there is still some shortage. If reference be made to the Census Statistics at the commencement of this report, it will be seen that the average population per house has gradually decreased, viz.:—from 4·7 persons per house in 1901 to 4·6 in 1911 then to 4·56 in 1921. No doubt the proximity of Hertford to London induces a certain number of persons, whose work lies outside the district, to seek houses in the Borough.

2b. Besides the 72 houses which were erected by the Corporation in 1921, under the Housing Act, 1923, a further scheme to erect 134 houses is being carried out. Already 24 houses have actually been built and occupied, and it is expected that the remaining 110 will be completed before the end of 1926.

The Corporation are again considering the advisability of erecting further houses, and are looking for a suitable site.

Attempts were made to procure some of the uninhabited houses at the Barracks, but without success. These might have accommodated tenants from the worst cottages, which could then have been closed.

3. There are no signs at present of any important change in the population. Should the train service at any time be improved, it is likely that there would be a development.

II. Overcrowding.

A fair amount of overcrowding has come under observation partly owing to the tendency to sublet rooms, with a view of meeting the higher rent.

III. Fitness of houses.

a. The general standard of houses is fair. There are, of course, in an old Borough, several very old houses and cottages.

b. The general character of defects found is most frequently dampness due to want of damp courses, want of height in rooms and insufficiency of window area. There are 16 back to back houses.

c. The defects are mainly constructional. In the olden days, height of rooms and window area seemed to have been held of no account, and damp courses were unknown.

Undoubtedly in some cases, landlords do not, and have not, realized their responsibilities. They do not appear to recognize that a cottage, like everything else, depreciates in value as time goes on. Many of the old cottages must have been substantially built originally to have lasted so long.

With regard to the tenants, it seems to me that in every town there is a class low down in the scale, who do not realize the comfort of living decently, who would not appreciate better conditions (and are certainly not prepared to pay extra for them), and who have become so attached to their present surroundings that they would strongly resent transplantation to another site or neighbourhood.

2. The action mainly taken so far is to get owners of unfit houses to undertake not to re-let them as soon as they become vacant.

Minor defects can be remedied, but it does not seem fair to ask for expensive structural alterations if the cottage is shortly to be condemned.

3. The main difficulty found in attempting to remedy unfitness is, undoubtedly, the want of cottages with a sufficiently low rent for the displaced tenants to go to. So soon as such houses are available, I am prepared to recommend the closure of several houses, and I am sure the Corporation will promptly act on my advice.

IV. There does not appear to be any unhealthy area in the district.

V. No bye-laws are in force in the Borough to deal with houses let in lodgings. It would appear that such are now advisable.

Housing Statistics.

		For the Year 1925	Years 1921-5
Number of new houses erected (a) Totals	42	46	161
Two houses converted into six flats	6		

UNFIT DWELLING HOUSES.

I. Inspection.

Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) 235 1191

Number of dwelling houses which were inspected and recorded under "The Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910" 64 544

Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation } no addition to
 Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation } those previously enumerated Form D.89.

II. Remedy of Defects without service of formal notice.

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers ... nil. nil.

III. Action under Statutory Powers.

A. Proceedings under Sec. 28 of "The Housing, Town Planning Act, 1919."

Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ... nil. nil.

Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit :—

(a) by owners nil. nil.

(b) by Local Authority in default of owners nil. nil.

Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by the owners of intention to close nil. nil.

	For the Year 1925	Years 1921-5
B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts.		
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	122	604
(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied :—		
(a) by owners	123	520
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners	nil.	6
C. Proceedings under secs. 17 and 18 of the Housing Town Planning Act, 1909.		
1. Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders	nil.	nil.
2. Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made ...	nil.	nil.
3. Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling houses having been made fit	nil.	nil.
4. Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolishing Orders were made ...	nil.	nil.
5. Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	nil.	nil.

With regard to the six houses represented as unfit during the year 1922, the owners gave an undertaking that the houses would not be re-let on becoming vacant. Three of the houses are now empty and will remain so ; there are in addition, eight houses to which Closing Orders are in operation, but owing to housing shortage the carrying out of the orders has of necessity to be deferred.

Under the Housing Act, 1923, the Corporation themselves have a scheme to erect 134 houses, and in connection with the scheme 24 houses have been erected. It is expected that the remaining 110 houses will be completed by December, 1926.

Food.

Slaughterhouses.

The number of Slaughterhouses in the Borough at different dates was as follows :—

	<i>in 1914.</i>	<i>in January, 1921.</i>	<i>December, 1925.</i>
Registered	3	3	3
Licensed	4	4	5

During the year 242 visits have been made to these Registered and Licensed Premises, the number being a considerable increase over previous years, due to the operation of the Meat Regulations.

The Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924, came into force on the first of April, 1925, and provide :—

- (a) For compulsory notification of slaughter with regard to certain specified animals.
- (b) For the carrying out in Shops and Stores, general hygienic measures to prevent contamination, where meat and meat products are dealt with.

In March, 1925, a Sub-Committee was appointed to consider the application of the Regulations and the following recommendations were made and adopted:—

- (1) That Notices required to be given under the Regulations, be given to the Sanitary Inspector.
- (2) That the requirements of the Regulations be advertised in the local newspaper, and that copies of such advertisements be circularised amongst the persons affected thereby.
- (3) That the Market Sub-Committee be requested to consider and report as to the steps to be taken to obtain compliance with the Regulations by Traders in respect of Stalls in the Public Market.
- (4) That a report be presented to the Committee at the expiration of 6 months on the work involved in carrying out the Regulations.

The Regulations were duly advertised and the persons affected thereby were served with a copy of the Order.

The carrying out of the Regulations involves a considerable amount of time to appreciably supervise and record requirements.

The total number of visits under the Regulations to December 31st, 1925, was 322—made up of 242 visits to slaughterhouses and 80 visits to other premises.

The number of carcasses examined were as follows:—Bovines, 107. Calves, 29. Sheep and Lambs, 236. Pigs, 210.

The amount of food dealt with as unfit was :—

- Bovine Livers, 5 (Abscessed, 2 ; Cirrlosed, 3)
- Sheep Livers, 1 (Cirrlosed)
- Pigs Livers, 1 (Necrosis)

One case of "Localised Tuberculosis" was dealt with, involving the surrender of the Liver, Lungs and Mesenterics.

In addition, the following food was surrendered as unfit:—

Imported Meat, 87 lbs.

Fish (Mackerel), 3 boxes, 112 lbs.

Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops.

Number of Producers and Purveyors of Milk, 1925	2
Number of Producers on register, 1925	5
	<hr/>
	7
	<hr/>

Four contraventions have been dealt, three related to cleansing and one to a shed improperly occupied as a cowshed.

Number of Milkshops on Register, 1925 ... 7

Total retail purveyors of milk on register, 1925 ... 11

(Premises of 2 retail purveyors outside Borough).

One change of occupation has occurred (Milkshop).

Sixty-three inspections have been made in connection with these registered premises. Several of the dairies in the Borough are provided with "cooling apparatus."

*The Milk and Dairies (Amendment) Act, 1922, and
The Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1923.*

Under the Act and Order two applications have been received and Licences granted for the sale of Graded Milk:—

(a) A dealer's license to sell "Certified Milk."

(b) A dealer's licence to sell Grade A. (Tuberculin Tested) Milk, and also to carry on as a "bottling establishment."

Bakehouses.

Number on Register, December, 1924	...	14
Number on Register, December, 1925	...	14
Number unoccupied	... ..	3
Changes of Occupation	... ..	1
Number of Inspections	... ..	37
Number of Contraventions	... ..	2
Contraventions remedied	... ..	2

(the contraventions referred to limewashing)

Report for the year 1925 on the administration of the Factory and Workshops Acts, 1901, for the Borough of Hertford.

Number of Workshops on the Register at the end of the year 1925:—

Workshops and Workplaces	53
Bakehouses	14

List of Workshops on Register, 1925.

Bakers	10	Dressmakers ...	5
Smiths	5	Builders ...	6
Tailors	4	Boot Repairers ...	5
Milliners	6	Maltings	6
Cycle Repairers... ..	5	Miscellaneous ...	16

During the year, 84 inspections have been made in connection with Factories and Workshops:—

(a) Factories, 8.

(b) Workshops, 76.

The number of defects and contraventions found are as follows:—

Under the Public Health Act:—

Want of Cleanliness	3
Unsuitable or Defective Sanitary Accommodation	2

Offences under the Factory and Workshops Act:—

Bakehouses not limewashed	2
----------------------------------	---

Home Work.

	Once in the year.	Twice in the year.
<i>Making, &c., Wearing Apparel:—</i>		
List received from Employers Lists		2
„ „ „ „ Outworkers		
Total names submitted for the year		402

1.—INSPECTION OF FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

Premises.	Number of		
	Inspections	Written Notices	Prosecutions
Factories including Factory			
Laundries	8	1	
Workshops including Workshop			
Laundries	76	3	
Workplaces other than out-workers' premises	9		
Total	93	4	

2.—DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

Particulars	Number of Defects			Number of Prosecutions
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H M. Inspector	
Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :—				
Want of Cleanliness	3	2		
Want of Ventilation... ..				
Overcrowding				
Want of drainage of floors ...				
Other nuisances				
Sanitary accommodation :—				
Insufficient	1			
Unsuitable or defective	1	1		
Not separate for sexes				
Offences under the Factory and Workshops Acts :—				
Illegal occupation of underground bakehouse (s. 101)				
Other Offences	2	2		
Total	7	5		

Infectious Disease.

The following Table shows the notifications received of the principal infectious diseases during the period 1920-1924:—

		1920	1921	1922	1923	1924
Scarlet Fever	...	102	25	5	25	30
Diphtheria	... ..	22	41	13	18	12
Enteric Fever	...	—	—	2	1	15
Erysipelas	... ..	2	—	—	1	5
Puerperal Fever	...	—	—	—	1	—
Ophthal. Neon.	...	1	3	—	1	—

The increase of Enteric Fever in 1924 was due to a small outbreak of Para B. at a girls school.

With regard to other notifiable diseases (except Tuberculosis) there is nothing of interest to report during this period.

Diphtheria anti-toxin is kept at the Isolation Hospital and administered forthwith on admission. Practically every case notified is removed to the Hospital.

No use, up to the present, has been made of the Schick or Dick tests.

Two cases of Anthrax, one of which proved fatal, have occurred in connection with a leather worker in the Borough.

Subjoined is a Table of infectious diseases for 1925.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES, 1925.

	At all ages	Under 1 year	1-2 years	2-3 years	3-4 years	4-5 years	5-10 years	10-15 years	15-20 years	20-35 years	35-45 years	45-65 years & over	Removed to Hospital	Treated in School Sanatorium	Nursed at home	Died
Small-pox ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria ...	4	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	2	...	...	4	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever	6	...	...	1	1	...	...	2	...	2	...	...	6	...	...	...
Enteric Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pneumonia ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ophthalmia	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Neonatorum	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Erysipelas ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...
Malaria	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Dysentery ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Trench Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cerebro-spinal Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Polio-myelitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Encephalitis Lethargica	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	13	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	5	2	8	...	...	3
Other Tuberculosis	4	...	...	...	...	...	1	3	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...

The notifications of cases of Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria were remarkably few, and compare favourably with those of 1922, which was an exceptional year. The only other notifications received (except those of tuberculosis) were 1 case of Ophthalmia Neonatorum which was treated at the County Hospital and made a good recovery, and a case of Erysipelas. The patient was one of the Hertford County Hospital Staff.

Tuberculosis.

In all, 20 notifications of Tuberculosis were registered, sixteen were on Form A (by Medical Practitioners), two were on Form D (from a Sanatorium), and two were transfers from other districts.

Of these twenty cases, 16 were pulmonary, 7 being males and 9 being females. Four were non-pulmonary (3 males and 1 female).

Of the sixteen pulmonary cases one was a re-notification and two were transfers from other districts. Seven of these were treated in a Sanatorium and one was an inmate of an Asylum. Three of these patients died during the year.

Of the four non-pulmonary cases (3 males and 1 female), the disease was not confirmed in one. Two of the patients received hospital treatment.

The total number of deaths during the year was ten, viz.:—8 pulmonary (3 male and 5 female) and two non-pulmonary (males).

No action has been necessary under either the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, or the Public Health Act, 1925, Sec. 62.

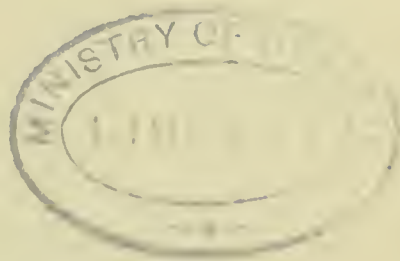
Tuberculosis Schemes and the treatment of Venereal Diseases are administered by the County Council, as is also the Maternity and Child Welfare.

With regard to the Ophthalmia cases reported during the 5 years (1920-24) all the patients received treatment (by District Nurses or Doctors) and all made good recoveries.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

ROBERT AYTON DUNN.



BISHOP'S STORTFORD URBAN.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg herewith to present my Annual Report for 1925 for your consideration.

Census Statistics.

The Population of the District at the Census of 1921 was					8,858
"	"	"	"	1911	8,721
"	"	"	"	1901	7,143
The Area (in Acres)		"	"	1921	3,371
The number of inhabited houses		"	"	1921	1,967
"	"	"	"	1911	1,925
"	"	"	"	1901	1,629
"	Families or				
	Separate Occupiers			1921	2,013
Average Population per house		"	"	1921	4.5
"	"	"	"	1911	4.5
"	"	"	"	1901	4.6

Physical and Social Conditions.

The Town lies in a shallow valley, spreading out on to higher ground on either side. It varies from about 185 to 300 feet above sea level. The valley runs from North to South, and through it flows the River Stort, a tributary of the Lea, which it joins some 12 miles further South in the neighbourhood of Broxbourne. The subsoil varies from gravel to a stiff loamy clay, whilst underneath lies the chalk. The main Great Eastern line to Cambridge passes through the town, from which is a branch line to Dunmow.

The chief industries of the town are agricultural, and include maltings, engineer's works, a fur pulling factory and a match factory.

There is a small Hospital of 28 beds for the needs of the Town and neighbourhood. There is also a Workhouse with Infirmary attached. Poor law relief has of late years remained fairly stationary.

1. General Statistics.

Area	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,371 Acres.
Population (Census 1921)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8,858
Population (estimated by Registrar General)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8,728
Number of inhabited Houses (Census 1921)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,967
Number of Families or separate Occupiers (Census 1921)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,013
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£59,810
Sum represented by a penny Rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£198

2. Extracts from Vital Statistics.

FOR THE YEAR 1925.

Birth Rate (per 1,000 population)				...	...	...	...	12·6
Death Rate (per 1,000 population)				...	...	...	...	12·8
Infant Death Rate (per 1,000 births)				...	...	...	...	63·6
				Male.	Female.	Total.		
Births	...	{	legitimate	...	48	54	102	110
			illegitimate	...	5	3	8	
Infant Deaths		{	legitimate	...	2	5	7	7
			illegitimate	...	—	—	—	
Total Deaths		...	...	...	47	65	112	112
Deaths of Women during Childbirth				...	{ (a) from Sepsis (b) from other causes			1 nil.
Deaths from Measles				...	...	...	...	nil.
„	„	Whooping Cough		...	...	...	...	nil.
„	„	Diarrhoea (under two years of age)				...	...	nil.
„	„	Cancer	...	...	...	...	...	16
„	„	Phthisis	...	...	...	...	...	5

Of the total number of deaths (112), 57 were of persons 65 years of age and upwards, viz.:—fourteen between 65 and 70, twenty-five between 70 and 80, sixteen between 80 and 90, and two over 90.

Causes of Death (Civilians only) during 1925.

						MALES.	FEMALES.
ALL CAUSES	...	...	...	...	...	47	65
1. Enteric Fever...	...	...	...	...	...		1
2. Small-pox	...	...	...	...	...
3. Measles	...	...	...	...	...
4. Searlet Fever...	...	...	...	...	...
5. Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...
6. Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...		1
7. Influenza	...	...	...	...	...		1
8. Encephalitis Lethargica	...	...	...	...	...		1
9. Meningoeoccal Meningitis	...	...	...	...	...
10. Tuberculosis of Respiratory system	...	...	...	...	...		5
11. Other Tubercular Diseases	...	...	...	...	...
12. Cancer, malignant disease	...	...	...	...	...	3	13
13. Rheumatic Fever	...	...	...	...	...
14. Diabetes	...	...	...	...	...	2	2
15. Cerebral Hæmorrhage	...	...	...	...	...	5	4
16. Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	...	7	8
17. Arterio-sclerosis	...	...	...	...	...	3	5
18. Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	3	4
19. Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	3	3
20. Other respiratory diseases	...	...	...	...	...	2	
21. Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	...	...	...	...	...
22. Diarrhœa (under two years)	...	...	...	...	...
23. Appendicitis	...	...	...	...	...	3	
24. Cirrhosis of liver	...	...	...	...	...
25. Acute and ehronic Nephritis	...	...	...	...	...	5	1
26. Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	...	...	...		1
27. Accidents and Diseases of Parturition	...	...	...	...	...
28. Congenital Debility, Premature Birth, &c.	...	...	...	...	...	2	5
29. Suicide	...	...	...	...	...	3	
30. Other deaths from Violence	...	...	...	...	...		1
31. Other defined Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	6	9
32. Causes ill-defined or unknown	...	...	...	...	...
Special Causes (included above)	...	...	...	...	...
Polio-myelitis	...	...	...	...	...
Polio-Encephalitis	...	...	...	...	...
Anthrax	...	...	...	...	...

Vital Statistics.

The Vital Statistics are rather unsatisfactory. The total deaths remain the same, but there has been a decrease of male and an increase of female deaths. The death rate is somewhat high and the birth rate has again fallen to such an extent that the deaths actually outnumber the births. The deaths from Cancer and Phthisis were fewer than in 1924 but the rate is still fairly high. These remarks also apply to the Infant Mortality.

For the sake of comparison the table below gives the average total number of births, deaths, etc., in five year periods from 1900 :—

	Year	1925	Average 5 years 1920-1924	Average 5 years 1915-1919	Average 15 years 1900-1914
Births	...	110	144·6	129·4	168·8
Deaths	...	112	97·6	108·2	103·3
Infant Deaths		7	6·8	9·2	15·7
Phthisis	„	5	6	5	7
Cancer	„	16	16·2	12	9
Zymotic	„	2	—	3·6	
Diarrhœa	„	—	0·4	0·4	—

The following are the average *Rates* for the 5 year period 1920-1924.

Birth Rate	...	...	16·5 per 1000 Population.
Death Rate	...	...	11·4 „ „ „
Infant Death Rate	...	47	per 1000 Births.
Phthisis	„ „	...	0·68 „ 1000 Population.
Cancer	„ „	...	1·83 „ „ „
Zymotic	„ „	...	0·16 „ „ „
Diarrhœa Death Rate		0·04	„ „ „

The three most noteworthy features in the above Tables are the steady decline in both the Birth Rate and Infant Mortality, and the steady increase in the number of Cancer deaths.

These are more apparent when set out for each year.

It would seem that the amount of *Poor Law relief* afforded remains fairly stationary. The only specially noteworthy outbreak of sickness was one of Paratyphoid B in a girls' college in the Town. This was in 1923. There were 10 patients in all. The cause of the outbreak could not be found.

General Provision of Health Services.

Hospitals. The only hospitals in the area are :—

1. The Stortford Hospital of 28 beds. This is supported by voluntary contributions.

2. The Isolation Hospital is under the control of a joint committee. The Hospital affords accommodation for cases of Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria from this district as well as from the Urban District of Sawbridgeworth and the Rural Districts of Hadham and Stansted. The Hospital is situated at the eastern end of the town. It has available 12 beds for Scarlet Fever and 10 beds for Diphtheria. Both wards have separate accommodation for each of the sexes. On the premises is a steam disinfecter.

3. The Workhouse Infirmary.

Ambulance Facilities. There is a motor ambulance for infectious diseases which is kept at the Isolation Hospital.

Clinics and Treatment Centres. These comprise a Maternity and Child Welfare Centre and a Tuberculosis Dispensary. Both are administered by the Herts County Council.

Public Health Officers. These consist of a Medical Officer of Health (who is M.O.H. to the Combined Sanitary district) and a whole time Sanitary Inspector who holds the Meat and Food certificates. There is no clerical assistance provided.

Professional Nursing in the Home. Two nurses and a midwife have been provided by the District Nursing Association for Bishop's Stortford and the neighbouring hamlet of Thorley. The two nurses carry out the sick nursing, some of the midwifery, and the school nursing. They also attend at the Maternity and Child Welfare Centre and the Tuberculosis Dispensary. The midwife acts for the district of Bishop's Stortford.

The District Nursing Association is affiliated to the County Nursing Association.

Chemical Work. Samples of water, etc., are submitted to a London laboratory for analysis.

Acts in force in the District. The Public Healths Act Amendment Act, and parts of the Public Health Acts of 1907 and 1925 have been adopted. The Small Dwellings Acquisition Acts is also in force.

Sanitary Circumstances of the District.

WATER SUPPLY.—Nearly all of the houses obtain their supply from the Town service, which is ample in quantity and good in quality. The only possible objection that can be raised against it is its hardness. The pumping station is situated on high ground outside the town, near the Western boundary of the district. The well, which is in the same situation, is 164 ft. deep and goes into the chalk about 40ft.

In 1924 fourteen cottages in Twyford Road were connected with the town water supply.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.—The River Stort runs through the Town from North to South. It is now navigable for barge traffic, having been recently dredged. The Lea Conservancy Board is the authority with regard to the prevention of its pollution.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.—The Sewage is carried by gravitation to a farm some $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles distant, which is situated just within the Stansted Rural District. Here it is pumped on to the farm and treated by broad irrigation. The night effluent, which formerly went into the river, after having passed through small filters, is now pumped up on the farm. No sewage is allowed to pass into the river. During the year the old low pressure steam engines have been removed and replaced by a Tangye horizontal double acting piston pump, driven by a 66 B.H.P. Suction Gas Engine. The smaller gas engine and pumps hitherto employed now act as a standby. A reduction of 4 hours in the daily running will thus be effected.

The question of a new intercepting sewer for the Hockerill district and a method for draining houses in the Stansted Road, owing to several new ones having recently been erected there, have received very careful consideration. Owing to a fracture of the main sewer in South Street the replacing of a length of 70 yards by a new 21 inch sewer has had to be undertaken. An extension of the sewer in Dunmow Road to the Golf estate has also been carried out.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.—The water carriage system is in general use. There are hardly any pail closets or privies. Prior to the war, a commencement had been made with getting flushing cisterns supplied to all houses. This has now been resumed.

SCAVENGING.—This is undertaken in a satisfactory manner by the District Council. The tip is an old gravel pit about 1 mile south-east of the town. The provision of ashbins, which became difficult during the war and for some little time afterwards, is now being continued.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT.

I herewith present the Annual Report and Returns of your Sanitary Inspector. It will be noticed that the new Meat Regulations have thrown a very large amount of extra labour on him, and it has generally entailed evening visits after the daily routine of work has been done.

Annual Report of the Sanitary Inspector for the Year 1925.

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Bishop's Stortford Urban District Council.*

Gentlemen,

I beg to submit for your consideration my Annual Report, in which is recorded the work done during the year 1925 in connection with the various branches of sanitation under my supervision.

It is pleasing to be able to testify that the duties of the Department have been carried out through the whole year without having to apply for magisterial aid in a single instance, notwithstanding the large amount of structural improvements which have been effected in the drainage and sanitary arrangements in the town.

House to house inspections, supervision and testing of drainage work, inspections of dwelling houses, workshops, laundries, bakehouses, slaughter houses, butchers, fruiterers and fishmongers shops, dairies, cowsheds, and milkshops, and the inspections of elementary schools, have each and all occupied the time of your inspector, and wherever insanitary conditions were found to exist, or where food was found to be unsound or stored in such a manner as to endanger its wholesomeness, such action as was necessary was promptly taken.

In the table appended it will be seen that a large amount of work has been carried out during the year. In all, 1,465 inspections were made. In 232 of the premises visited nuisances were found to exist, and in dealing with the sanitary defects from which they arose, 134 intimations and 5 statutory notices were served. In many instances

the circumstances were such that it was considered advisable to send an explanatory letter rather than a formal notice, whilst in a number of other cases nuisances were abated as a result of interviews with the responsible parties. In order to ascertain that the defects referred to were being properly remedied 243 visits were paid to the respective premises while the necessary work was in progress.

Sixty-two complaints with regard to alleged nuisances were received during the year and the usual prompt attention was given to each.

COLLECTION AND STORAGE OF HOUSEHOLD REFUSE.

In many parts of the town, principally those occupied by members of the working class, house refuse is stored in receptacles of varying size, shape and condition, the result being the contents are frequently tipped out or are scattered about by dogs searching for food, causing a serious nuisance, and also increasing the cost of collection. Forty-four new dust-bins have been provided to houses.

NEW BUILDINGS.

The progress of the building trade in Bishop's Stortford has been well maintained during 1925, mainly perhaps owing to the development of several building estates within the district. The duty of supervising the laying of drains and inspecting the sanitary fittings in connection with all new buildings has entailed a good deal of extra work. Two hundred and ten sections of drains were tested, 166 of which were found satisfactory at first test.

GENERAL INFORMATION.

The particulars of inspections and action taken are as follows:—

	1925.		1921-5.	
Premises inspected where infectious disease				
has occurred	20	83		
Premises disinfected after infection	23	105		
Complaints of Nuisances	62	263		
Complaints of Nuisances Inspected	62	263		
Inspection of premises where nuisances are				
found	232	864		
Dwelling House to House inspections	50	292		

Inspection of Workshops	...	...	...	49	206
„ „ Factories	...	...	...	4	8
„ „ Laundries	...	...	...	20	—
„ „ Schools	...	...	...	7	36
„ „ Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	282	717
„ „ Common Lodging Houses	...	...	...	42	207
„ „ Dairies and Milkshops	...	...	...	41	90
„ „ Cowsheds	...	...	...	62	289
„ „ Bakehouses	...	...	...	41	149
„ „ Markets and Shops	...	...	...	40	207
„ under Public Health (Meat)					
Regulations, 1924	...	...	...	30	—
Visits to work in progress	...	...	...	243	1080
„ property under notice	...	...	...	155	790
Total number of Inspections of premises	...	...	...	1465	
Preliminary notices to owners	...	...	...	134	432
Statutory Notices served	...	...	...	5	30
Letters written	...	...	...	100	446
Owners seen personally	...	...	...	86	348
Sections of new drains tested	...	...	...	210	553
Sections of new drains tested and found satis- factory at first test	...	...	...	166	379

The following is a tabulated statement of the improvements:—

	1925.	1921-5.
Drains reconstructed	3	17
Drains repaired and ventilated	12	60
Drains not efficiently trapped	1	2
Surface of yards repaved and drained	13	41
Roofs, eaves, gutters and fall pipes repaired	6	51
Floors repaired	8	—
Water Closets and Urinals repaired	21	93
W.C.'s requiring flushing cisterns	60	129
Dustbins provided	44	180
Nuisances abated from want of drains and choked drains	24	72
Nuisances abated from animals improperly kept	1	20
Nuisances abated from offensive accumulations	4	21

New W.C.'s provided	...	...	...	...	1	10
Insufficient W.C. accommodation	...	...	...	...	1	—
Houses cleansed and ventilated...	...	...	...	...	5	36
Dampness in Houses remedied	...	...	...	...	5	27
Houses overcrowded	...	...	...	...	3	8
Cowsheds limewashed	...	...	...	...	5	9
Cowsheds paved and drained	...	...	...	...	1	3
Cowsheds light and ventilation improved	...	...	...	...	1	2
Slaughterhouses limewashed	...	...	...	...	1	7
Bakehouses limewashed	...	...	...	...	2	11
Common Lodging Houses limewashed	...	...	...	...	1	6
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	46

I am, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

JOHN LORD, M.S.I.A.

Smoke Abatement.

At one Factory in the town, which periodically emitted black smoke, oil fuel has been substituted for coal and the nuisance has ceased.

PREMISES CONTROLLED BY BYE-LAWS.

Common Lodging Houses.

Number on Register, January, 1925	...	...	...	...	1
„ „ „ December, 1925	...	...	...	...	1

Frequent inspections have been made to this House. A weekly return of lodgers is furnished to the Sanitary Inspector. No case of infectious disease has been reported.

For other premises controlled by Byelaws vide para. "Food."

Schools.

Your Medical Officer of Health also acts, with your permission, as Assistant School Medical Officer.

At one of the schools the drains, sanitary conveniences and fittings have been entirely re-constructed, the old trough closets having been replaced by washdown pedestal closets.

One old Infants school has been demolished and another is to be closed. A new school is in course of erection which will accommodate children from both these schools. Another new school is shortly to be built to replace one that is unsatisfactory.

Town water is laid on to all the schools in the district.

Housing.

I. General Housing Conditions in the area.

2a. There appears to be still a demand for houses of the working class type at a fairly low rental. This problem does not yet appear to have been solved. Some of the demand is caused by two firms (one engineering and the other tin-smiths) who have recently started work in the district and who have brought some of their employees with them.

2b. The Urban Council originally erected 10 new cottages in London Road. At the present time 22 more are in course of erection in Dunmow Road, some of which are just being occupied. Plans have been prepared for a further 28 in the same neighbourhood. These are to be non-parlour type.

3. From the Registrar-General's estimate it would appear that the population of the town is not increasing. This year the total deaths exceeded the total births by 2. At the last Census the population was 137 above that of 1911.

II. There is a fair amount of overcrowding in some of the cottages, often due to a married son or daughter taking up their residence with their parents. The average population per house remains at 4·5.

It is difficult at the present time to deal with overcrowding as there are not cottages of a fairly low rental available.

III. a. As elsewhere, in the older parts of the town, there are a fair number of poor cottages which would be better demolished.

b. The general character of defects found are dampness due to want of damp courses, insufficient window area and too low ceilings.

c. The above defects are obviously not the fault of the present owners or of the occupiers. Here, as elsewhere, there are owners and occupiers who do not take any interest or pride in the houses. It is also frequently the case that the owners of some of this very poor property rely largely for their livelihood on the rents and have no capital to outlay.

d. Where a property is such that it is likely to be condemned in the near future it does not seem reasonable to demand a large outlay for structural alterations. Attempts are made to get minor defects (such as bad guttering, etc.) remedied, and if the cottage is unfit, to get an undertaking from the landlord that the house, on becoming vacant, will not be re-let.

- IV. There do not appear to be any unhealthy areas in the district.
- V. There are no byelaws in force relating to houses let in lodgings.
- New building bye-laws have recently come into force.

Housing Statistics.

	For the Year 1925	Years 1921-5
Number of new houses erected—		
Without State assistance	30	} 188
With State assistance	52	
Council Houses	22	10
(a) Totals ...	104	198

UNFIT DWELLING HOUSES.

I. Inspection.

Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) 282 1049

Number of dwelling houses which were inspected and recorded under "The Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910" 50 267

Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation (under D.89.)

Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ... 50 283

II. Remedy of Defects without service of formal notice.

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers ... 40 217

III. Action under Statutory Powers.

A. Proceedings under Sec. 28 of "The Housing, Town Planning Act, 1919."

Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ... 5 31

Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit:—

(a) by owners	4	30
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners	nil.	nil.

Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by the owners of intention to close

nil. nil.

For the Year
1925 Years
1921-5

B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 134 346

(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied :—

(a) by owners	124	313
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners	nil.	nil.

C. Proceedings under secs. 17 and 18 of the Housing Town Planning Act, 1909.

1. Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders	nil.	2
2. Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made ...	nil.	2
3. Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling houses having been made fit	nil.	nil.
4. Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ...	nil.	nil.
5. Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	nil.	nil.

Food.

a. MILK SUPPLY.

The total number of cowkeepers, dairymen and purveyors of milk on the register is one more than in 1924, namely, sixteen. These premises have been inspected as usual. At one of the premises structural alterations have been carried out which is a great improvement. No complaints have been received as to a shortage of supply. No licences have been applied for for the sale of milk under the Special Designations Order, 1923.

b. MEAT.

Slaughterhouses.

There are six slaughterhouses in the town, three licensed and three registered. The situation of these slaughterhouses and their structural condition leaves much to be desired. They were periodically inspected during the year which entailed 282 visits. These visits were as far as possible made during the time of slaughter so that adequate inspection of the carcasses and organs could be carried out, which is most important. The number of slaughterhouses is as follows :—

	<i>in 1920.</i>	<i>in January, 1925.</i>	<i>December, 1925.</i>
Registered	3	3	3
Licensed	2	3	3
	—	—	—
Total	5	6	6
	—	—	—

The following are particulars of meat seized and destroyed during the year.

- 1 complete carcase of beef.
- 1 „ „ „ pork.
- 13 Bullocks' livers.
- 1 set of Bullock's lungs and heart.
- 4 Pigs' plucks.
- 20 lbs. of other meat.

I have, for many years, urged the substitution of one Public Abattoir in lieu of these private premises. Now that the new Meat Regulations have come into force the advisability of such action is still more apparent.

“Factory and Workshops Act, 1901.”

1.—INSPECTION OF FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

Premises.	Number of		
	Inspections	Written Notices	Prosecutions
Factories including Factory Laundries	24	1	
Workshops including Workshop Laundries	49	1	
Workplaces other than out-workers' premises			
Total	73	2	

2.—DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

Particulars	Number of Defects			Number of Prosecutions
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H M. Inspector	
Nuisances under the Public Health Acts:—				
Want of Cleanliness	1	1		
Want of Ventilation... ..				
Overcrowding				
Want of drainage of floors ...	1	1		
Other nuisances				
Sanitary accommodation:—				
Insufficient				
Unsuitable or defective ...				
Not separate for sexes ...				
Offences under the Factory and Workshops Acts:—				
Illegal occupation of underground bakehouse (s. 101)				
Other Offences				
Total	2	2		

Infectious Disease.

Subjoined is a Table showing the incidence of certain infectious diseases during the past five years.

		1920	1921	1922	1923	1924
Scarlet Fever	...	5	5	9	15	15
Diphtheria	... ..	5	—	1	1	1
Enteric Fever	...	—	1	—	10	1
Erysipelas	... ..	3	2	1	1	5
Puerperal Fever	...	—	—	—	1	—
Ophthal. Neon.	...	—	—	—	—	—

The increase in Enteric Fever in 1923 was due to a small outbreak of Para B. at a girls training College.

The figures for the other diseases do not appear to call for special comment.

“Swabs” from doubtful cases of Diphtheria are examined by the Medical Officer of Health at Hertford. Diphtheria anti-toxin is kept at the Isolation Hospital at Bishop's Stortford and is promptly administered on the admission of a patient.

No use, up to the present, has been made of either the Schick or Dick tests.

Subjoined is a list of Infectious Notifications for 1925.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES, 1925.

	At all ages	Under 1 year	1-2 years	2-3 years	3-4 years	4-5 years	5-10 years	10-15 years	15-20 years	20-35 years	35-45 years	45-65 years	65 years & over	Treated		Died
														Removed to Hospital	in School Sanatorium		Nursed at home
Small-pox ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria ...	5	...	...	...	...	4	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	5	...	1
Scarlet Fever	7	...	...	...	...	3	...	1	3	...	...	...	...	7	...	...
Enteric Fever	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
Puerperal Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pneumonia ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
Malaria ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Dysentery ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Trench Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cerebro-spinal Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Polio-myelitis	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
Encephalitis Lethargica	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	11	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	6	2	1	1	6	...	3
Other Tuberculosis	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

The notifications of Scarlet Fever have dropped from 15 to 7 and of these two were inmates of the Workhouse Infirmary. On the other hand the Diphtheria notifications have increased from 1 to 5. One of the patients unfortunately died. The Enteric Fever patient was a schoolboy and must have contracted the disease outside the district during the holidays.

Tuberculosis.

In all, 13 notifications of Tuberculosis were registered. All but one were notified by Medical Practitioners. One was a transfer from a neighbouring district.

Of these 13 cases, 11 were pulmonary (6 males and 5 females) and 2 non-pulmonary (both females).

Of the 11 pulmonary cases one was a transfer. Three of these patients died. Six of them received Sanatorium treatment.

Neither of the non-pulmonary patients received hospital treatment.

The total number of deaths during the year from Pulmonary Tuberculosis was five, all being females. There were no deaths from Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

No action has been necessary under either the "Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925," or the "Public Health Act, 1925."

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

ROBERT AYTON DUNN.



HODDESDON URBAN DISTRICT

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg herewith to present my Annual Report for 1925 for your consideration.

Census Statistics.

The Population of the District at the Census of 1921 was					5,409
"	"	"	"	1911	5,196
"	"	"	"	1901	4,711
The Area (in Acres)					1921
"	"	"	"	"	1,576
The number of inhabited houses					1921
"	"	"	"	"	1,265
"	"	"	"	1911	1,190
"	"	"	"	1901	1,029
"	Families or				
	Separate Occupiers				1921
"	"	"	"	"	1,311
Average Population per house					1921
"	"	"	"	"	4.27
"	"	"	"	1911	4.37
"	"	"	"	1901	4.58

Physical and Social Conditions.

The Town of Hoddesdon consists more or less of two parts. One part lies astride the main road from London to Ware and is continuous with Broxbourne at its southern extremity, from which it is divided by the Spital Brook. This part is 150 feet above sea level. The other slightly N.E. is near the Rye House Station and is about 115 feet above sea level. The district is bounded along its eastern border by the river Lea, which here is about 93 feet above sea level. It is served by two stations, one Broxbourne, on the London & North Eastern main line to Cambridge, and the other Rye House, on the branch line to Hertford. Both stations are about $\frac{3}{4}$ mile distant from the centre of the town.

The soil on the greater part of the district is gravel overlying chalk, just along the eastern edge it is marshy and peaty. Here are several springs which feed the Lea, and which supply watercress beds.

The chief industries of the district are agricultural, and include a large number of nurseries and glasshouses, and a brewery.

1. General Statistics.

Area	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,576 Acres.
Population (Census 1921)	...	...	...	...	...	...	5,409
Population (estimated by Registrar General)	...	...	...	...	...	...	5,549
Number of inhabited Houses (Census 1921)	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,265
Number of Families or separate Occupiers (Census 1921)	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,311
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	...	£37,327 10s.
Sum represented by a penny Rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	£115

2. Extracts from Vital Statistics.

FOR THE YEAR 1925.

Birth Rate (per 1,000 population)				...	...	...	...	16·2
Death Rate (per 1,000 population)				...	...	...	...	11·3
Infant Death Rate (per 1,000 births)				...	...	...	...	33·3
				Male.	Female.	Total.		
Births	...	{ legitimate	...	37	45	82		90
		{ illegitimate	...	4	4	8		
Infant Deaths		{ legitimate	...	—	1	1		3
		{ illegitimate	...	1	1	2		
Total Deaths	...	...	...	27	36	63		63
Deaths of Women during Childbirth				...	{ (a) from Sepsis (b) from other causes			nil. 1
Deaths from Measles				...	...	...	...	nil.
„	„	Whooping Cough		...	...	...	...	nil.
„	„	Diarrhœa (under two years of age)		...	...	...	...	1
„	„	Cancer	...	...	...	...	...	11
„	„	Phthisis	...	...	...	...	...	2

Of the total number of deaths (63), 38 were of persons 65 years of age and upwards, viz.:—four between 65 and 70, twenty-three between 70 and 80, ten between 80 and 90, and one over 90.

Causes of Death (Civilians only) during 1925.

						MALES.	FEMALES.
ALL CAUSES	...	...	...	...	...	27	36
1. Enteric Fever...	...	...	...	...	...
2. Small-pox	...	...	...	...	...
3. Measles	...	...	...	...	...
4. Scarlet Fever...	...	...	...	...	...
5. Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...
6. Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...
7. Influenza	...	...	...	...	...		4
8. Encephalitis Lethargica	...	...	...	...	...
9. Meningococcal Meningitis	...	...	...	...	...
10. Tuberculosis of Respiratory system	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
11. Other Tuberculous Diseases	...	...	...	...	...		1
12. Cancer, malignant disease	...	...	...	...	...	7	4
13. Rheumatic Fever	...	...	...	...	...
14. Diabetes	...	...	...	...	...
15. Cerebral Hæmorrhage	...	...	...	...	...	2	2
16. Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	...	4	8
17. Arterio-sclerosis	...	...	...	...	...	4	1
18. Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...		6
19. Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	1	2
20. Other respiratory diseases	...	...	...	...	...		1
21. Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	...	...	...	...	...
22. Diarrhœa (under two years)	...	...	...	...	...	1	
23. Appendicitis	...	...	...	...	...	2	
24. Cirrhosis of liver	...	...	...	...	...
25. Acute and chronic Nephritis	...	...	...	...	...		1
26. Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	...	...	...
27. Accidents and Diseases of Parturition	...	...	...	...	...		1
28. Congenital Debility, Premature Birth, &c.	...	...	...	...	...		1
29. Suicide	...	...	...	...	...
30. Other deaths from Violence	...	...	...	...	...	2	
31. Other defined Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	2	3
32. Causes ill-defined or unknown	...	...	...	...	...	1	
Special Causes (included above)	...	...	...	...	...
Polio-myelitis	...	...	...	...	...
Polio-Encephalitis	...	...	...	...	...
Anthrax	...	...	...	...	...

Vital Statistics.

The Vital Statistics may be considered fairly satisfactory. As in all other districts the Birth Rate has fallen. The Death Rate is 1·3 lower than that of the previous year.

The Infant Mortality figure has also fallen and is now quite low.

The only death from Zymotic disease was one from diarrhœa.

The following figures may prove of interest. In the first place are given the *actual number* of births, deaths, etc., as it is often difficult to estimate a population correctly in the intercensus periods:—

	Year	1925	Average 5 years 1920-1924	Average 5 years 1915-1919	Average 15 years 1900-1914
Births	...	90	105	94	112
Deaths	...	63	65	73·6	62
Infant Deaths		3	6	7	10·3
Phthisis	„	2	2·4	6	4·7
Cancer	„	11	9·4	8·4	6·1
Zymotic	„	1	1·6	3	
Diarrhœa	„	1	0·6	1	—

The following gives the average Rate per 1,000 Population, or in the case of the Infant Mortality per 1,000 Births, for the 5 years, 1920-1924.

Birth Rate	...	...	19·1 per 1000 Population.
Death Rate	...	...	11·8 „ „ „
Infant Death Rate	...	...	55·1 „ 1000 Births.
Phthisis	„	„	0·43 „ 1000 Population.
Cancer	„	„	1·7 „ „ „
Zymotic	„	„	0·29 „ „ „
Diarrhœa Death Rate			0·11 „ „ „

It would appear that the amount of Poor Law relief remains fairly stationary.

General Provision of Health Services in the Area.

There are no *Hospitals* in the area. The sick are treated at the Hertford County Hospital, at Tottenham, or at one of the London Hospitals. The infectious cases are sent to the Isolation Hospital at Hertford.

There is no *ambulance* in Hoddesdon.

There is a *Maternity and Child Welfare Centre* which is under the Local Nursing Association. This also provides two Nurses for the district who carry out the midwifery, general nursing and school nursing. They also attend at the Welfare Centre. The Association is affiliated to the County Nursing Association.

The Tuberculosis Dispensary is at Hertford.

Public Health Officers of the Local Authority. There is a Medical Officer of Health, who acts for the Combined District, and a Sanitary Inspector who is also the Surveyor. The salaries of both these officers are subsidized by an Exchequer grant.

Chemical Work. Any necessary chemical work is sent to a laboratory in London. Very frequent samples of the sewage effluent (the control samples taken by the Lea Conservancy Board) are thus dealt with.

Legislation in Force. The Public Healths Act Amendment Act, 1890; part of the Public Health Act, 1907, and most of the Public Health Act, 1925, are in force in the district.

Sanitary Circumstances of the District.

WATER SUPPLY.—The greater number of the houses derive their supply from a deep well in the chalk. The works are owned by a private Company. The water, which is pumped up into a reservoir, is supplied to the houses by gravitation. At some future date it may be possible for the Council to purchase these waterworks. It is certainly preferable, from a sanitary point of view, that Local Authorities should control the water supply of their district.

RAINFALL.—The rainfall for 1925 amounted to 25·62 inches which is rather above the average. Rain fell at Hoddesdon on 151 days in the year.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.—The river Lea flows through the district and forms its eastern boundary. The Stort joins the Lea at its north eastern corner. All rivers and streams are under the control of the Lea Conservancy Board.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.—The Sewage works are situated near Rye House Station on land of 25 acres. They consist of Settling tanks, Detritus chamber, Contact beds and Percolating beds. An additional tank has lately been constructed.

Following a complaint by a resident to the Ministry of Health alleging that bad smells were arising from the sewage farm, the Ministry sent down one of their Inspectors on November 3rd, 1925. A letter was subsequently received from the Ministry, an extract of which is as follows:—

“.....The Minister is advised that whilst there was no cause for complaint in respect of the disposal works on the occasion of Dr. Calvert's visit, there may be cause for complaint in hot weather if sewage containing a large proportion of brewery waste is allowed to pond on the land. In order to minimise possible causes for complaint the Council should endeavour during such times, as the sewage contains large proportions of brewery waste, to ensure that the sewage shall pass through the contact beds and percolating filters, and not be allowed to pond on the land.....”

The Inspector also drew attention to one or two other matters which have received attention. The samples of effluent, taken by representatives of the Lea Conservancy Board from time to time at the sewage farm, continue to be of a very high standard.

On one taken on 18th December, 1925, Dr. Bernard Dyer, after giving the full analysis, states, “This is a satisfactory effluent.”

In order to provide drainage for a new estate the Council have agreed, subject to certain financial adjustments, to lay a new 9 inch sewer for a distance of some 400 feet.

The question of draining a low lying portion of the district (Admiral's Walk) has had very careful consideration.

It has been decided to provide a public convenience in the High Street.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.—All houses within the prescribed distance are connected up with the sewers. Those that are not are provided with pail closets and cesspools. These latter number sixteen.

SCAVENGING.—The scavenging is under the control of the Surveyor. A weekly collection of ashes and house refuse is undertaken. This is carted to the sewage farm and dealt with in the destructor, the heat from which is utilized in pumping the sewage to the percolating beds. There are no fixed or brick ashpits, only moveable ashbins being provided. Some 96 of these have been provided during the year.

Traders and others are encouraged to deposit trade refuse at the destructor at the sewage farm where it is burnt. The actual collection is not undertaken by the authority.

Annual Report of the Sanitary Inspector for the Year 1925.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit the following report with regard to the Sanitary conditions and improvements effected in the district during the year under review :—

GENERAL INFORMATION.

The particulars of inspections and action taken are as follows :—

	1925.	1922-5.
Inspections of Dwelling Houses	520	2132
Inspections of various other premises	19	180
Registered and Licensed Premises inspected	88	230
Number of Informal Notices served	128	333
Number of Statutory Notices served	3	96
Letters sent and owners interviewed	77	278
Number of Prosecutions	—	—
Number of Improvements carried out	197	813

The following is a tabulated statement of the improvements :—

	1925.	1922-5.
Drains re-laid	3	6
Drains cleansed	8	95
Flushing cisterns provided to W.C.'s	13	216
Dustbins provided	96	251
Roofs repaired	4	25
Spouting repaired	4	28
W.C. pans renewed	14	68
New W.C.'s provided	—	1
Yards paved	1	10
Floors re-laid	1	6
Houses eleansed	1	7
Dampness remedied	12	32
Cesspools attended to	4	18
Overcrowding attended to	—	1
Nuisances from animals abated	—	11
Offensive accumulations removed	2	4
Cowsheds limewashed	2	2
Sinks provided	3	3
Miscellaneous	29	29
	<hr/> 197	<hr/> 813

Premises disinfected	...	...	...	...	12	60
New houses erected	...	...	...	...	13	79
New houses connected with water mains	...			...	12	75
New houses connected with sewers	...	...		...	12	75

The number of houses completed during the year and qualifying for the subsidy of £75 under the Housing Act, 1923, was 2.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

(Sgd.) THOMAS V. OLIVER, A.R.San.I., A.M.I.S.E., &c.

PREMISES CONTROLLED BY BYE-LAWS.

There is no Common Lodging House in the district. For other premises controlled by bye-laws *vide* "Food."

Schools.

All the schools 4 in number are on the main water supply. The question of new schools and closing some of the old buildings, which are unsuitable, has been under very careful consideration.

Housing.

1. General Housing Conditions.

2a. It would seem that there is still some shortage of cottages such as could be let at a fairly cheap rent. Owing to the proximity to London the demand for houses will probably be greater than the supply for several years.

2b. The Council purchased some land near Rye Park and themselves erected 50 houses which were completed in 1922. It is hoped that during 1926 the surplus land on the Council's housing estate will be purchased by a private firm and that some 60 subsidy-houses suitable for the working classes will be erected.

3. There are no signs of any important change in the population at present owing to erection of factories, etc., but Hoddesdon is a convenient distance from London and might develop at any time.

II. There is some, but not a great deal of overcrowding in the district.

It will be noticed that the average population per house has decreased from 4.58 per house in 1901 to 4.37 in 1911 then to 4.27 in 1921.

III. Fitness of houses.

a. The general standard of houses may be considered fair. Though present in one or two situations, there is not that number of very old cottages which are to be met with in the older towns. Half the working class population live at Rye Park where the houses are of modern construction.

b. The general character of defects found is most frequently dampness due to want of damp courses, want of height of rooms and insufficiency of window area.

c. It is impossible to remedy these defects, where they exist, without re-construction. In most cases it would mean demolition.

Here as elsewhere there are good and bad landlords and good and bad tenants. Too often one is up against a really poor landlady whose main support is derived from the rent of a few poor cottages.

2. The action mainly taken so far is to endeavour to get an undertaking from the owner of an unfit house not to re-let on its becoming vacant.

3. If a house is so bad as to be unfit a closing order has sometimes been made. Then the difficulty is to get the tenant to vacate. It is just in this class of house that those people live who cannot possibly afford say, a cottage costing them 10/- to 15/- per week. It would seem that 5/- is about the limit they can afford.

IV. There do not appear to be any unhealthy areas in the district.

There are no Bye-laws in force with regard to houses let in lodgings.

Housing Statistics.

	For the Year 1925	Years 1922-25
Number of new houses erected—		
(a) Totals ...	13	79

UNFIT DWELLING HOUSES.

I. Inspection.

Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	239	1851
--	-----	------

Number of dwelling houses which were inspected and recorded under "The Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910"	239	1042
--	-----	------

Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ...		1	9
Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation (under D.89.)		35	
II. Remedy of Defects without service of formal notice.			
Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers ...		nil.	nil.
III. Action under Statutory Powers.			
A. Proceedings under Sec. 28 of "The Housing, Town Planning Act, 1919."			
Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ...		nil.	nil.
Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit :—			
(a) by owners		nil.	nil.
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners		nil.	nil.
Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by the owners of intention to close		nil.	nil.
B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts.			
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied		128	313
(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied :—			
(a) by owners		128	313
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners		nil.	nil.

C. Proceedings under sec. 11. Housing Act, 1925.

1. Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders	1	9
2. Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made ...	1	9
3. Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling houses having been made fit	nil.	4
4. Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ...	nil.	nil.
5. Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ...	... nil.	nil.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

a. MILK.

No complaints have been received as to any inadequacy in the supply or distribution of milk in the area.

Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops.

Number of Cowkeepers on the register	...	6
Number of Milkshops and Dairies	... ..	5
Number of Inspections	... ..	16

One Cowkeeper, who is also a purveyor of milk, has been added to the Register during the year. One purveyor of milk has had his licence renewed to sell Grade "A" (Tuberculin tested) Milk. He receives his supply in sealed bottles and therefore does not have to have a sterilising plant.

In two cases limewashing of sheds had to be enforced and one accumulation of manure removed.

b. MEAT.

(I.) Inspection.

Frequent inspection is made of the premises, particularly when slaughtering is being carried out. No diseased or tuberculous meat was discovered.

(II.) Admisistration of the Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924.

The attention of all butchers and purveyors of meat has been drawn to these regulations.

(III.) There is no public abattoir in the district.

Slaughterhouses.

The number of Slaughterhouses at different dates was as follows :

	<i>in 1920.</i>	<i>in January, 1925.</i>	<i>December, 1925.</i>
Registered	3	2	2
Licensed	2	1	1
	—	—	—
Total	5	3	3
	—	—	—

Number of inspections during the year, 52.

Bakehouses.

Number on Register	...	...	...	...	7
Changes of Occupation	...	...	...	...	nil.
Number of Contraventions	...	...	...	...	1
Number of Inspections	...	...	...	...	12

The contravention was want of cleanliness which was remedied.

As a general rule these premises are fairly well kept.

**Report for the year 1925 on the administration of the
Factory and Workshops Acts, 1901, for the
Urban District of Hoddesdon.**

Number of Workshops on the Register at the end of the year
1925 :—

Workshops and Workplaces	...	...	...	...	49
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	7

List of Workshops on Register, 1925.

Bakers	...	...	...	7	Printers	...	...	1
Tailors	...	...	...	1	Laundries	...	...	2
Dressmakers	}	...	...	6	Harness Makers	...	...	1
Milliners		...	...		Boot Repairers	...	...	8
Builders	...	...	...	5	Cycle Repairers	...	...	3
Plumbers	...	...	...	7	Batmakers	...	...	3
Shoeing Smiths	...	...	...	3	Wheelwright	...	...	1
Watchmakers	..	...	...	2	Miscellaneous	...	...	6

During the year the visits of inspection to Factories and Workshops numbered 27.

The number of defects and contraventions found are as follows :—

“Factory and Workshops Act, 1901.”

1.—INSPECTION OF FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

Premises.	Number of		
	Inspections	Written Notices	Prosecutions
Factories including Factory Laundries	27		
Workshops including Workshop Laundries			
Workplaces other than out- workers' premises			
Total	27		

2.—DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

Particulars	Number of Defects			Number of Prosecutions
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H M. Inspector	
Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :—				
Want of Cleanliness ...	1	1		
Want of Ventilation... ..				
Overcrowding				
Want of drainage of floors ...				
Other nuisances				
Sanitary accommodation :—				
Insufficient				
Unsuitable or defective ...	2	2		
Not separate for sexes ...				
Offences under the Factory and Workshops Acts :—				
Illegal occupation of under-ground bakehouse (s. 101)				
Other Offences				
Total	3	3		

Infectious Disease.

The following Table shows the notifications received of the principal infectious diseases during the period 1920-1924 :—

		1920	1921	1922	1923	1924
Scarlet Fever	...	23	6	8	3	4
Diphtheria	... ..	14	18	7	3	1
Enteric Fever	...	1	—	1	—	—
Erysipelas	... ..	3	3	2	—	—
Puerperal Fever	...	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthal. Neon.	...	—	—	—	—	—

It is satisfactory to notice the decrease in the notifications during the last 3 years.

The Hospital for infectious diseases is situated at Hertford.

“Swabs” from doubtful cases of diphtheria are sent to a laboratory in London for examination.

Diphtheria anti-toxin is always kept at the Isolation Hospital and forthwith administered on the admission of any diphtheria patient. Practically every patient is admitted to Hospital.

Subjoined is a list of Infectious Notifications for 1925.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES, 1925.

57

	At all ages	Under 1 year	1-2 years	2-3 years	3-4 years	4-5 years	5-10 years	10-15 years	15-20 years	20-35 years	35-45 years	45-65 years	65 years & over	Removed to Hospital	Treated in School Sanatorium	Nursed at home	Died
Small-pox ...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Enteric Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pneumonia ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Malaria ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Dysentery ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Trench Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cerebro-spinal Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Polio-myelitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Encephalitis Lethargica	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	3	...	...	...	3	...	...	1
Other Tuberculosis	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...

The only notifications received during the year (other than those of Tuberculosis) were three, viz.:—1 Diphtheria, 1 Scarlet Fever and 1 Erysipelas. The Diphtheria patient almost certainly contracted the disease before coming into the district, where she was a visitor.

Tuberculosis.

In all, 5 notifications of Tuberculosis were registered. Three on Form A (by Medical Practitioners) and 2 on form C (from Hospitals).

Of these five cases 4 were pulmonary (3 being males and 1 female) and 1 non-pulmonary (a female). Three of the pulmonary cases received Sanatorium treatment. One died. The non-pulmonary case was a re-notification and was treated at the Hertford County Hospital.

No action has been necessary under either the "Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925," or the "Public Health Act, 1925," Sec. 62.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

ROBERT AYTON DUNN.



WARE URBAN DISTRICT.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg herewith to present my Annual Report for 1925 for your consideration.

Census Statistics.

The Population of the District	for 1925 was	6,034
The Population of the District at the Census of 1921	„	5,949
„ „ „ „	1911 „	5,842
„ „ „ „	1901 „	5,573
The Area (in Acres)	„	1921 „ 629
The number of inhabited houses	„	1921 „ 1,324
„ „ „ „	1911 „	1,291
„ „ „ „	1901 „	1,188
„ Families or		
Separate Occupiers	„	1921 „ 1,373
Average Population per house	„	1921 „ 4.49
„ „ „ „	1911 „	4.5
„ „ „ „	1901 „	4.7

Natural and Social Conditions.

The Town lies chiefly in a shallow valley which runs West and East. Through this flows the River Lea. Part of the town has extended on the rising ground northwards. It varies from about 100ft. to 200ft. above sea level. The soil is mainly gravel, overlying the chalk. Near the river it is marshy and peaty. It has a railway station on the Great Eastern branch line from Broxbourne to Hertford, and lies eastward from the latter Town about 2 miles. The chief industries of the Town are agricultural. There is a considerable number of maltings, and a large chemical food factory. Lately an envelope factory has been started.

1. General Statistics.

Area	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	629 Acres.
Population (Census 1921)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5,949
Population (estimated by Registrar General)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6,034
Number of inhabited Houses (Census 1921)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,324
Number of Families or separate Occupiers (Census 1921)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,373
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£29,399
Sum represented by a penny Rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£120

2. Extracts from Vital Statistics.

FOR THE YEAR 1925.

Birth Rate (per 1,000 population)				...	...	..	...	17·7
Death Rate (per 1,000 population)				...	...	...	...	10·6
Infant Death Rate (per 1,000 births)				...	...	...	...	56·
				Male.	Female.	Total.		
Births	...	legitimate	...	54	45	99	107	
		illegitimate	...	5	3	8		
Infant Deaths		legitimate	...	4	2	6	6	
		illegitimate	...	—	—	—		
Total Deaths		...	...	27	37	64	64	
Deaths of Women during Childbirth				...	{ (a) from Sepsis (b) from other causes		nil. 1	
Deaths from Measles				..	...	...	...	nil.
„	„	Whooping Cough		...	...	...	...	nil.
„	„	Diarrhœa (under two years of age)				...	...	nil.
„	„	Cancer	...	...	...	...	..	7
„	„	Phthisis	...	...	...	...	...	3

Of the total number of deaths (64), 32 were of persons 65 years of age and upwards, viz.: eight between 65 and 70, twelve between 70 and 80, ten between 80 and 90, and two over 90.

Causes of Death (Civilians only) during 1925.

						MALES.	FEMALES.
ALL CAUSES	...	...	...	...	...	27	37
1. Enteric Fever...	...	...	...	...	...
2. Small-pox	...	...	...	...	...
3. Measles	...	...	...	...	...
4. Scarlet Fever...	...	...	...	...	...
5. Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...
6. Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...
7. Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	2	1
8. Encephalitis Lethargica	...	...	...	...	...
9. Meningococcal Meningitis	...	...	...	...	...
10. Tuberculosis of Respiratory system	...	...	...	...	...	2	1
11. Other Tuberculous Diseases	...	...	...	...	...		2
12. Cancer, malignant disease	...	...	...	...	...	3	4
13. Rheumatic Fever	...	...	...	...	...
14. Diabetes	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
15. Cerebral Hæmorrhage	...	...	...	...	...	2	2
16. Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	...	2	5
17. Arterio-sclerosis	...	...	...	...	...		1
18. Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	1	7
19. Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...		3
20. Other respiratory diseases	...	...	...	...	...		1
21. Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	...	...	...	...	...
22. Diarrhœa (under two years)	...	...	...	...	...
23. Appendicitis	...	...	...	...	...
24. Cirrhosis of liver	...	...	...	...	...		1
25. Acute and chronic Nephritis	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
26. Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	...	...	...
27. Accidents and Diseases of Parturition	...	...	...	...	...		1
28. Congenital Debility, Premature Birth, &c.	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
29. Suicide	...	...	...	...	...
30. Other deaths from Violence	...	...	...	...	...	2	1
31. Other defined Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	10	4
32. Causes ill-defined or unknown	...	...	...	...	...
Special Causes (included above)	...	...	...	...	...
Polio-myelitis	...	...	...	...	...
Polio-Encephalitis	...	...	...	...	...
Anthrax	...	...	...	...	...

Vital Statistics.

The Vital Statistics though fairly satisfactory are not so good as those of 1924.

The Birth Rate, as is usually the case, has fallen. The Death Rate remains almost the same.

The Infant Mortality figure, as was almost bound to be the case, has gone up considerably. In 1924 it was the lowest I have any record of except that of 1913. It is still well below that for England and Wales, which in 1925 was 75 per 1000 births.

The following figures may prove of interest. In the first place are given the *actual number* of births, deaths, etc., as it is often difficult to correctly estimate a population during the intercensus periods:—

	Year	1925	Average 5 years 1920-1924	Average 5 years 1915-1919	Average 15 years 1900-1914
Births	...	107	123	106·4	152
Deaths	...	64	67	77·2	82
Infant Deaths		6	5·2	7	15·4
Phthisis	„	3	3·6	5	6·3
Cancer	„	7	8	7	5·7
Zymotic	„	nil.	1·8	3·4	
Diarrhœa	„	nil.	0·8	1	—

The following gives the average Rate per 1,000 Population, or in the case of the Infant Mortality per 1,000 Births, for the 5 years, 1920-1924.

Birth Rate	...	...	20·5 per 1000 Population.
Death Rate	...	...	11·1 „ „ „
Infant Death Rate	...	...	42·2 „ 1000 Births.
Phthisis	„	„	0·6 „ 1000 Population.
Cancer	„	„	1·3 „ „ „
Zymotic	„	„	0·3 „ „ „
Diarrhœa Death Rate			0·13 „ „ „

The amount of *Poor Law Relief* appears to remain fairly stationary.

General Provision of Health Services in the Area.

There are no *Hospitals* in the area, but patients usually go to Hertford County Hospital for Treatment. There is an Infirmary attached to the Workhouse. Infectious cases are nursed at the Isolation Hospital which is also at Hertford.

Ambulance facilities. There is no ambulance stationed in Ware.

Clinics and Treatment Centres. These, too, are at Hertford.

The Public Health Officers consist of the Medical Officer of Health, who acts for the Combined District, and the Sanitary Inspector, who also acts as Surveyor. He has an assistant.

Professional Nursing in the Home. The Local Nursing Association have provided three trained Nurses. Between them they carry out the sick nursing, the midwifery, the health visiting and the school nursing both for Ware and the neighbouring hamlet of Wareside. The Local Association is affiliated to the County Nursing Association.

Chemical Work. Any analytical work that is required is carried out at a London laboratory.

Sanitary Circumstances of the District.

WATER SUPPLY.—Practically all the houses obtain their water from the town supply. This is derived from two wells sunk in the chalk. Both these wells are in the district and are the property of the Council. In one case a steam engine and in the other an electric motor is used to pump up the water. The gas engine (supplied by a gas producing plant), which up till recently was the motive power at the lower Waterworks, is now used as a standby. A new reservoir of ferro concrete on supports some 60ft. high and of a capacity of 200,000 gallons was erected in 1924 on high ground at Musley. By this means a continuous supply can be afforded to those houses situated on the higher part of the town.

The water has always proved to be of good quality. A report from the Analyst dated December, 1925, states "this water is completely satisfactory both bacteriologically and chemically."

RIVERS AND STREAMS.—The Lea, on which the town is situated, is navigable for barge traffic. The lower part of the town which is on its banks is consequently liable to floods. Steps have been taken to check this flooding at Amwell End, since when no serious flooding has occurred.

The Lea and all its tributaries are under the supervision of the Lea Conservancy Board.

The New River commences in the neighbourhood of Ware. Originally constructed to carry the water from Chadwell Spring to London it is now supplemented by a certain amount of water taken from the Lea, and by a number of deep wells sunk in the chalk, the water from which is pumped into the river by several pumping plants situated along its banks.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.—Nearly every house is on the water carriage system. The sewage flows to Stanstead Abbots by gravitation, a matter of some 2 miles. Here it is pumped up on to the farm near Rye House, about a mile further on, where it is treated by broad irrigation. The farm consists of some 140 acres, 100 of which can be used for the treatment of sewage. During 1924, owing to the occurrence of a leak, it was found necessary to replace a length of 400 yards of the main sewer in Star Street. The new sewer, which is egg shaped, measures 27in. by 18in.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.—As stated above, this is on the water carriage system. It has been the practice of the Council for many years past to insist on the provision of flushing cisterns to all W.C.s., a policy much to be commended.

SCAVENGING.—This work is satisfactorily carried out by the Council under the supervision of the Surveyor. The new tip is situated just inside the western boundary of the district. The old tip, near the present one, had to be given up. I am sorry the opportunity was not then taken to erect a small destructor. Moveable ashbins are getting into general use in the district. During the year some 47 were provided.

Annual Report of the Sanitary Inspector for the Year 1925.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit to you the following report of the work done during the year ended 1925.

GENERAL INFORMATION.

The particulars of inspections and action taken are as follows:—

	1925.	1921-5.
Inspections of Dwelling Houses	972	5043
Inspections of various other premises	24	271
Registered and Licensed Premises inspected	135	692
Canal Boats inspected	141	559
Number of Informal Notices served ... ..	.	—
Number of Statutory Notices served	71	329
Number of Letters sent	*201	1354
Number of Prosecutions	—	—
Number of Improvements carried out	348	1763

* Many in lieu of Informal Notices.

The following is a tabulated statement of the improvements:—

	1925.	1921-5.
Drains cleansed	50	234
Drains re-laid and repaired	6	53
Flushing cisterns provided to W.C.'s	4	15
W.C.'s repaired and improved	6	46
New W.C.'s provided	4	20
Flushing cisterns repaired	75	349
Dustbins provided	47	246
Nuisances from animals, &c., abated	2	13
Houses cleansed	36	209
Roofs repaired	31	103
Spouting repaired	20	94
Floors repaired	6	40
Windows repaired	2	23
Plaster of Walls and Ceilings repaired	5	86
Paving repaired	—	11
Dampness attended to	36	105
Offensive accumulations removed	5	17
Mica flap ventilators repaired	—	31
Overcrowding abated	3	23
Miscellaneous	10	45
	<hr/> 348	<hr/> 1763
Premises disinfected after infectious disease	24	127
School disinfected after infectious disease	—	1
New houses erected	8	66
New houses connected with sewers	8	65
New houses connected with water mains	8	66

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

ALBERT DICKINSON.

PREMISES CONTROLLED BY BYE-LAWS.

A few years ago there were two *Common Lodging Houses* in the district. Both of these have now been closed.

For other premises controlled by bye-laws see "Food."

Schools.

Your Medical Officer of Health, with your permission, acts as Assistant School Medical Officer.

Each of the three schools has been regularly inspected. The town water supply is laid on in each case.

Housing.

I. General Housing Conditions.

2a and II. It would appear from the number of applications for the Council houses that there is still a shortage of cottages. If reference be made to the Statistical Table at the commencement of this Report it will be seen that the average population per house at the Census of 1921 remains practically the same as that of 1911, viz.: 4.49 as against 4.5. In 1901 it was 4.7. According to the Census returns the average density for Ware is 1.14 rooms per person and this is the lowest but one for the whole County and therefore unsatisfactory. The average for the County is 1.27.

2b. In 1921 and 1922 the Council erected 46 cottages on a site in Watton Road. At the present time plans have been passed for 16 more Council cottages on the Musley site. In the last three years 19 houses have been built by private enterprise mostly under the subsidy scheme.

3. There are no signs at present of any important change in the population.

III. a. The town is an old one and there is a good deal of old and poor property in the lower and older part. On the higher and newer part the houses are satisfactory.

b. The general character of defects found are dampness due to want of proper damp courses, want of height of rooms and insufficiency of window area. There are very few back to back houses. Some 6 very poor cottages have been demolished voluntarily during the last few years by the owners.

c. The defects are mainly constructional and are a legacy of the old days when air, light and ventilation were not much considered. There are doubtless some tenants in this old property who do not appreciate better conditions and landlords who seem to take no interest in the cottages beyond collecting the rent.

III. 2 & 3. Such defects as can be remedied without large structural alterations are carried out. It does not seem fair to ask for the latter if the house is shortly to be condemned. There is the further difficulty of getting houses, more especially of a nearly equivalent rental, to put the displaced tenants into. Very few, if any, of the occupiers of the houses I have in mind could possibly afford to pay the rent of Council cottages.

IV. There does not appear to be any unhealthy area in the district.

V. There are no bye laws in force for houses let in lodgings.

Housing Statistics.

	For the Year 1925	Years 1921-25
Number of new houses erected—		
(a) Totals	8	66
(b) Part of Housing Scheme	—	46
Assisted by subsidy ...	—	13

UNFIT DWELLING HOUSES.

1. Inspection.

Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	265	1194
Number of dwelling houses which were inspected and recorded under "The Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910"	157	703
Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ...	2	3
Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation (under D.89.)	23	143

II. Remedy of Defects without service of formal notice.

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers ...	23	133
---	----	-----

III. Action under Statutory Powers.

A. Proceedings under Sec. 28 of "The Housing, Town Planning Act, 1919."

Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ...	nil.	nil.
---	------	------

Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit :—

(a) by owners	nil.	nil.
----------------------	------	------

(b) by Local Authority in default of owners	nil.	nil.
---	------	------

Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by the owners of intention to close	nil.	nil.
---	------	------

B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	53	291
---	----	-----

(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied :—

(a) by owners	45	245
----------------------	----	-----

(b) by Local Authority in default of owners	nil.	nil.
---	------	------

C. Proceedings under sec. 11. Housing Act, 1925.

1. Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders	nil.	nil.
---	------	------

2. Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made ...	nil.	nil.
---	------	------

- | | | | |
|----|--|------|------|
| 3. | Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling houses having been made fit | nil. | nil. |
| 4. | Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... | nil. | nil. |
| 5. | Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... | nil. | nil. |

Two houses were closed by the owner voluntarily.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

MILK. The supply and distribution of milk in the area appears to be satisfactory. A considerable amount of milk is brought into the district from outside farms to Allen & Hanbury's invalid food factory.

Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops.

Number of Milkshops on register for 1925 ... 6

Number of Cowsheds on register for 1925 ... 5

These have been periodically inspected. Three contraventions have been dealt with, one relating to cleansing and two to accumulations of manure.

No licences have been granted or applied for under either the Act of 1922 or the Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1923.

MEAT.

Slaughterhouses.

The number of Slaughterhouses at different dates was as follows :

	<i>in 1920.</i>	<i>in January, 1925.</i>	<i>December, 1925.</i>
Registered	2	2	2
Licensed	—	—	—
Total	2	2	2

These have been regularly inspected, frequently whilst slaughtering was being carried out. They are fairly well kept, but in one case cleansing and limewashing had to be enforced, in the other an accumulation of manure had to be removed and the slaughterhouse floor repaired.

Public Health (Meat Regulations), 1924.

Visits have been paid to the Meat Shops and Slaughterhouses in accordance with these regulations. It was found necessary to have several of the shop fronts altered and on other points several notices had to be served under Art. 20 (5) (a). One case was dealt with and remedied under Art. 20 (3). In five cases receptacles had to be enforced.

Bakehouses.

There are ten bakehouses in the district but two are at present closed. These have been periodically inspected. In nine cases cleansing and limewashing had to be enforced and in one case a W.C. flushing apparatus repaired.

**Report for the year 1925 on the administration of the
Factory and Workshops Acts, 1901, for the
Urban District of Ware.**

Number of Workshops on the Register at the end of the year 1925 :—

List of Workshops on Register, 1925.

Maltings	23	Shoeing Smiths ...	3
Harness makers ...	3	Dressmakers & Millinery	3
Bootmakers	6	Cycle Repairers ...	2
Bakers	8	Watchmakers	3
Tailors	4	Wheelwrights	2
Builders	4	Laundries	3
Plumbers	3	Miscellaneous	9

*Summary of Work done during the Year in connection with
Workshops and Factories.*

Inspection of Workshops and Factories	135
The following defects were found—	FOUND, REMEDIED.
Want of Cleanliness	16 8
Other nuisances	33 32
Sanitary Accommodation defective	2 2
Sanitary Accommodation insufficient	3 3

“Factory and Workshops Act, 1901.”

1.—INSPECTION OF FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

Premises.	Number of		
	Inspections	Written Notices	Prosecutions
Factories including Factory Laundries	135	33	
Workshops including Workshop Laundries			
Workplaces other than out- workers' premises			
Total	135	33	

**2.—DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND
WORKPLACES.**

Particulars	Number of Defects			Number of Prosecutions
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H M. Inspector	
Nuisances under the Public Health Acts:—				
Want of Cleanliness	16	8		
Want of Ventilation... ..				
Overcrowding				
Want of drainage of floors ...				
Other nuisances	32	32		
Sanitary accommodation:—				
Insufficient	1	1		
Unsuitable or defective ...	2	2		
Not separate for sexes ...	2	2		
Offences under the Factory and Workshops Acts:—				
Illegal occupation of under-ground bakehouse (s. 101)				
Other Offences	1			
Total	54	45		

Infectious Disease.

The following Table shows the notifications received of the principal infectious diseases during the period 1920-1924:—

		1920	1921	1922	1923	1924
Scarlet Fever	...	1	25	23	8	3
Diphtheria	... ..	3	—	2	3	5
Enteric Fever	...	—	—	—	1	12
Erysipelas	... ..	1	1	—	—	1
Puerperal Fever	...	—	1	—	—	—
Ophthal. Neon.	...	—	—	—	—	—

The increase of the notifications of Enteric Fever in 1924 was largely due to cases of Para B.

The Infectious patients are removed to the Isolation Hospital at Hertford. Diphtheria anti-toxin is always kept there and is promptly administered on the admission of a diphtheria patient. Practically all the patients are removed to Hospital. No use, up to the present, has been made of either the Schick or Dick Tests.

Subjoined is a Table of Infectious diseases for 1925.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES, 1925.

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	At all ages	Under 1 year	1-2 years	2-3 years	3-4 years	4-5 years	5-10 years	10-15 years	15-20 years	20-35 years	35-45 years	45-65 years	65 years & over	Removed to Hospital	Treated in School Sanatorium	Nursed at home	Died
Small-pox ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever	11	...	...	...	...	...	7	2	1	1	...	...	...	11	...	...	...
Enteric Fever	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Puerperal Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pneumonia ...	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	2	1	1	...	...	...	...
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas ...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...
Malaria	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Dysentery ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Trench Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cerebro-spinal Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Polio-myelitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Encephalitis Lethargica	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	7	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	4	1	1	...	4	...	...	2
Other Tuberculosis	8	...	1	...	...	1	2	...	1	2	...	1	...	2	...	...	1

Infectious Diseases.

There was an increase in the number of notifications of *Scarlet Fever* from three to eleven. On the other hand no cases of *Diphtheria* were notified. There was one notification of Enteric Fever, as compared with twelve in the previous year. All the above cases were removed to the Isolation Hospital.

Tuberculosis.

During the year 15 notifications of Tuberculosis were received, all but one from Medical Practitioners. Besides these, three notices of transfers from other districts were notified—two pulmonary and one non-pulmonary.

Of these fifteen cases seven were pulmonary, 2 being males and 5 females. Eight were non-pulmonary (5 males and 3 females). Of the seven pulmonary cases, in one case the disease was not confirmed. Four of the patients were treated in a Sanatorium. Two patients died. Of the eight non-pulmonary cases two received hospital treatment. One of the patients died.

The total number of deaths during the year was five, three being pulmonary and two non-pulmonary.

No action has been necessary under either the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, or the Public Health Act, 1925, Sec. 62.

Tuberculosis Schemes and the treatment of Venereal Diseases are administered by the County Council.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

ROBERT AYTON DUNN.

BUNTINGFORD RURAL DISTRICT.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg herewith to present my Annual Report for 1925 for your consideration.

Census Statistics.

The Population of the District at the Census of 1921					was	4,926
“	“	“	“	1911	„	5,019
“	“	“	“	1901	„	5,020
The Area (in Acres)			“	“	1921	„ 28,470
The number of inhabited houses			“	“	1921	„ 1,233
“	“	“	“	1911	„	1,215
“	“	“	“	1901	„	1,204
“	Families or					
	Separate Occupiers			“	1921	„ 1,240
Average Population per house			“	1921	„	4·0
“	“	“	“	1911	„	4·13
“	“	“	“	1901	„	4·17

Natural and Social Conditions.

This, the northernmost of my districts, is some 10 miles from West to East and 5 from North to South. The highest point near Sandon Church is 528 ft. above sea level, its lowest 260 ft. at the junction of Westmill and Braughing parishes. Two streams flow through the district, one, the Rib, rising near Sandon takes a South-Easterly course through Buntingford, the other, the Quin, rising at Barkway flows nearly due South to join the Rib near Braughing.

The soil consists of chalk, which frequently crops through the surface, overlaid with varying thicknesses of clay or stiffish loam; in some places gravel is met with.

The district is badly served by railways, only the branch of the London & North Eastern Railway from St. Margarets to Buntingford passing through 2 or 3 miles of the South-Eastern portion.

The industry of the district is purely agricultural.

The Workhouse is situated at Buntingford. There is no hospital in the district, the sick are sent either to Royston or Cambridge.

1. General Statistics.

Area	...	...	...	...	...	...	28,470 Acres
Population (Census 1921)	...	...	...	...	...	...	4,926
Population (estimated by Registrar General)	...	...	...	...	...	...	4,934
Number of inhabited Houses (Census 1921)	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,233
Number of Families or separate Occupiers (Census 1921)	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,240
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	...	£
Sum represented by a penny Rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	£

2. Extracts from Vital Statistics.

FOR THE YEAR 1925.

Birth Rate (per 1,000 population)				...	...	...	...	15·4		
Death Rate (per 1,000 population)				...	...	...	...	12·3		
Infant Death Rate (per 1,000 births)				...	...	...	...	26·3		
				Male.	Female.	Total.				
Births	...	legitimate	...	43	30	73	76			
		illegitimate	...	1	2	3				
Infant Deaths		legitimate	...	—	2	2	2			
		illegitimate	...	—	—	—				
Total Deaths				...	...	...	33	28	61	61
Deaths of Women during Childbirth				...	{	(a) from Sepsis	nil.			
					{	(b) from other causes	nil.			
Deaths from Measles				..	...	...	...	...	...	nil.
„	„	Whooping Cough		...	...	...	...	...	...	nil.
„	„	Diarrhœa (under two years of age)		...	...	...	...	...	...	nil.
„	„	Cancer	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
„	„	Phthisis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3

Of the total number of deaths (61), 39 were of persons 65 years of age and upwards, viz.:—five between 65 and 70, eighteen between 70 and 80, thirteen between 80 and 90, and three over 90.

Causes of Death (Civilians only) during 1925.

						MALES.	FEMALES.
ALL CAUSES	...	...	...	...	...	33	28
1. Enteric Fever...	...	...	...	...	...
2. Small-pox	...	...	...	...	...
3. Measles	...	...	...	...	...
4. Scarlet Fever...	...	...	...	...	...
5. Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...
6. Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...
7. Influenza	...	...	...	...	...		1
8. Encephalitis Lethargica	...	...	...	...	...
9. Meningococcal Meningitis	...	...	...	...	...
10. Tuberculosis of Respiratory system	...	...	...	...	...	2	1
11. Other Tuberculous Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	1	
12. Cancer, malignant disease	...	...	...	...	...	3	4
13. Rheumatic Fever	...	...	...	...	...
14. Diabetes	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
15. Cerebral Hæmorrhage	...	...	...	...	...	3	1
16. Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	...	8	5
17. Arterio-sclerosis	...	...	...	...	...	1	3
18. Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...		1
19. Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	2	1
20. Other respiratory diseases	...	...	...	...	...
21. Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	...	...	...	...	...
22. Diarrhœa (under two years)	...	...	...	...	...
23. Appendicitis	...	...	...	...	...
24. Cirrhosis of liver	...	...	...	...	...
25. Acute and chronic Nephritis	...	...	...	...	...		1
26. Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	...	...	...
27. Accidents and Diseases of Parturition	...	...	...	...	...
28. Congenital Debility, Premature Birth, &c.	...	...	...	...	...		2
29. Suicide	...	...	...	...	...
30. Other deaths from Violence	...	...	...	...	...	2	2
31. Other defined Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	10	5
32. Causes ill-defined or unknown	...	...	...	...	...
Special Causes (included above)	...	...	...	...	...
Polio-myelitis	...	...	...	...	...
Polio-Encephalitis	...	...	...	...	...
Anthrax	...	...	...	...	...

Vital Statistics.

The Vital Statistics show, as has generally been the case throughout my districts, a distinct drop in the Birth Rate. The Death Rate remains much the same as that of 1924; so is also that from Phthisis. The Cancer Death Rate, though fairly high, is lower than that of the previous year. The Infant Mortality figure is fortunately distinctly low, and there were no deaths from any of the Zymotic diseases, including Diarrhœa.

The following figures may prove of interest. In the first place are given the *actual number* of births, deaths, etc., as it is often difficult to correctly estimate a population during the intercensus periods:—

		Year	1925	Average 5 years 1920-1924	Average 5 years 1915-1919	Average 15 years 1900-1914
Births	...		76	95	81	109.3
Deaths	...		61	61	62	69
Infant Deaths			2	4.8	2.8	8.3
Phthisis	„		3	2	2.4	4.3
Cancer	„		7	8.8	7.2	6.6
Zymotic	„		nil.	1.6	2	-
Diarrhœa	„		nil.	0.4	0.2	-

The following gives the average Rate per 1,000 Population, or in the case of the Infant Mortality per 1,000 Births, for the 5 years, 1920-1924.

Birth Rate	...	...	19.3 per 1000 Population.
Death Rate	...	...	12.4 „ „ „
Infant Death Rate	...	...	50.5 „ 1000 Births.
Phthisis	„	„	0.4 „ 1000 Population.
Cancer	„	„	1.79 „ „ „
Zymotic	„	„	0.32 „ „ „
Diarrhœa Death Rate			0.08 „ „ „

The amount of *Poor Law Relief* remains fairly stationary.

There has been no noteworthy outbreak of sickness or invalidity in the district during the past five years.

General Provision of Health Services in the Area.

The only *Hospital* in the area is the Isolation Hospital which serves the whole district. It is situated on high ground in the parish of Aspenden. It consists of an Administrative Block and two wards, one of eight beds for Scarlet Fever and another of four beds for Diphtheria. There is separate accommodation for each sex.

There is a portable steam disinfecter (Thresh) on the premises.

The sick seek relief as a rule either at Royston or Cambridge or in some cases at Hertford or Hitchin Hospitals.

There is a Workhouse, with Infirmary attached, in Buntingford itself.

Public Health Officers. These consist of a Medical Officer of Health (who acts for the Combined District) and a Sanitary Inspector who is also the Surveyor.

Contribution is made to the salaries of both these Officers by Exchequer Grants.

Professional Nursing in the Home. The Local Nursing Associations have provided only two Nurses who actually reside in the area. They practise Midwifery and carry out the sick nursing, health visiting and school work. There are other Nurses who, though residing in neighbouring districts, do the nursing in some of the parishes. The Local Associations are affiliated to the County Nursing Association.

Chemical Work. Any necessary chemical work is sent to a laboratory at either London or Cambridge.

There are no *Local Acts* in force in the district.

Sanitary Circumstances of the District.

WATER SUPPLY.—The town of Buntingford is supplied by water from a deep well sunk into the chalk. The works are situated on high ground about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile to the West of the town. It is a constant supply and is distributed to the houses by gravitation. The water, though somewhat hard, is ample in quantity and good in quality. The works are the property of the Council.

The village of Wallington is supplied from a reservoir situate upon a hill adjoining the village, the water from which is conveyed to the village by means of a service pipe and stand pipes. Recently this water was found to be polluted by animal manure. This nuisance

has now been abated and the reservoir thoroughly cleansed. In addition the site of the reservoir has been securely fenced to prevent cattle from encroaching.

Improved facilities have also been provided in the matter of water supply to the Parishes of Rushden and Ardeley, where deep wells sunk into the chalk are now available for the use of the inhabitants.

The remainder of the district is supplied principally from shallow wells or from deep wells sunk into the chalk.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.—There are no navigable streams. The rivers Rib and Quin both rise within the district. The control of these so far as pollution is concerned is under the Lea Conservancy Board. Care is taken to prevent their pollution.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.—There is only one Sewage Disposal works and this is at Buntingford. The sewage is carried by gravitation to the Sewage Farm which is situated at the South end of the town, where it is treated by broad irrigation. In the rest of the district the houses drain into cesspools.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.—The houses in Buntingford are provided with W.C.'s connected with the sewer. Elsewhere pail closets are in use.

SCAVENGING.—All house refuse is collected weekly from the houses at Buntingford and removed to an incinerator at the Sewage Farm where it is destroyed. In the remaining parishes it is usually dug into the garden or disposed of in other ways by the occupiers.

Sanitary Inspection of the District.

The Sanitary Inspector has furnished me with the following particulars :—

Inspections of Dwelling Houses	...	...	242
Registered and Licensed Premises inspected	...	...	87
Number of Informal Notices served	...	...	49
Number of Statutory Notices served	...	...	14
Number of Prosecutions	...	...	—
Number of houses erected	...	...	4
Number of houses connected with water mains	...	...	2
Number of houses connected with sewers	...	...	2
Number of Houses disinfected	...	...	17

PREMISES CONTROLLED BY BYE-LAWS.

There are no Common Lodging Houses in the district. For other premises see para. "*Food.*"

Schools.

At Buntingford the schools have been greatly improved and a new system of drainage installed. The playgrounds have been treated with tar macadam.

The remaining schools within the district are in fairly good order.

Housing.

I. General Housing Conditions in the Area.

2a. There is undoubtedly a need in the district for a further provision of cottages to meet the requirements of the agricultural labourer. It is essential that the rents should be within his means. He cannot afford to pay the rent of those Council cottages which were erected in 1921-22. This district is very largely populated by the agricultural class.

2b. In 1921-22 the Council themselves erected 120 houses throughout the district. Some in all but two of the parishes. These are always let.

3. The Population is practically stationary. Since the Census of 1901 it has dropped by about 100. There seems no likelihood of any change in the near future.

II. OVERCROWDING. Though overcrowding is sometimes met with it is not particularly common. Reference to the Census returns shows that the average number of rooms per person is 1·35 for the district, which compares quite favourably with the other Rural Districts in Herts. The figure for the Administrative County is 1·27. Again the Census figures show a decrease in the number of persons per house from 4·17 in 1901 to 4·13 in 1911 to 4·0 in 1921, which certainly seems low.

2. Usually the cause of overcrowding is that young married people are living with their parents until they can get a suitable cottage.

3. The remedy would appear to be erection of cottages at a low rental.

III.a. FITNESS OF HOUSES. There are still a good many old and dilapidated cottages scattered about the district.

b. The general character of defects found are dampness, want of height of rooms and insufficient window area.

c. These cottages were built before much regard was paid to light and ventilation or damp courses. They are worn out. No doubt in some cases proper management on the part of the owners and neglect on the part of the tenants have contributed to their unfitness.

2. Up to to the present it has only been found possible to get the worst defects remedied. Some of the worst cottages would certainly be closed if there were any others available at a small rental.

3. None beyond that mentioned above.

IV. There do not appear to be any unhealthy areas in the district.

V. There are no Bye-laws in force relating to houses let in lodgings.

VI. In my report to the Hertford Corporation (p. 12, III. Fitness of Houses) I said "there is a class (of tenant) low down in the scale, who do not realize the comfort of living decently, who would not appreciate better conditions (and are certainly not prepared to pay extra for them), and who have become so attached to their present surroundings that they would strongly resent transplantation to another site or neighbourhood." It would seem that this does not apply to the younger generation. They are showing signs of wishing to improve their conditions of living and would welcome starting their married life in modern cottages if they could get them at a reasonable figure.

Housing Statistics.

	For the Year
	1925
Number of new houses erected—	
(a) Totals	4
(b) Part of Housing Scheme	—
Assisted by subsidy ...	—

UNFIT DWELLING HOUSES.

1. Inspection.

Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	242
--	-----

Number of dwelling houses which were inspected and recorded under "The Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910"	80
Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ...	6
Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation (under D.89.)	15
II. Remedy of Defects without service of formal notice.	
Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers ...	15
III. Action under Statutory Powers.	
A. Proceedings under Sec. 28 of "The Housing, Town Planning Act, 1919."	
Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ...	nil.
Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit :—	
(a) by owners	nil.
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners	nil.
Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by the owners of intention to close	nil.
B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts.	
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	36
(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied :—	
(a) by owners	36
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners	nil.

C. Proceedings under sec. 11. Housing Act, 1925.

1. Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders	nil.
2. Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made ...	nil.
3. Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling houses having been made fit	nil.
4. Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ...	nil.
5. Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ...	nil.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

a. MILK SUPPLY.

There has been a better supply generally of milk in the district than for some years. The Cowsheds and Dairies registered in the District number 26. They are regularly inspected and have been found to be fairly well kept.

b. MEAT.

The number of Slaughterhouses at different dates was as follows :

	<i>in 1920.</i>	<i>in January, 1925.</i>	<i>December, 1925.</i>
Registered	3	7	7
Licensed	—	—	—
Total	3	7	7

There are no Knacker's Yards in the area.

The slaughterhouses have been frequently visited, especially whilst slaughtering was in progress. They are fairly well kept.

The recent Meat Regulations. The recent Meat Regulations have entailed a considerable amount of extra work on your Inspector. He reports that the butchers nearly always are willing to co-operate, that the meat inspected has proved to be of good quality but that the same difficulties are met with as described under Ware Rural District.

Bakehouses.

There are only 6 situate in the district. These are periodically inspected and are fairly well kept. In 2 cases orders were issued to limewash.

Report for the year 1925 on the administration of the
Factory and Workshops Acts, 1901.

List of Workshops on Register, 1925.

Bakers	...	...	6	Harness makers	...	2
Tailors	...	...	2	Laundries	...	—
Bootmakers	...	...	2	Cycle Shops	...	4
Wheelwrights	...	...	4	Watchmakers	...	1
Shoeing Smiths	...	...	6	Builders	...	7
Dressmakers	...	...	3	Engineers	...	2

“Factory and Workshops Act, 1901.”

I.—INSPECTION OF FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

Premises.	Number of		
	Inspections	Written Notices	Prosecutions
Factories including Factory Laundries	43	2	
Workshops including Workshop Laundries			
Workplaces other than out- workers' premises			
Total	43	2	

2.—DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

Particulars	Number of Defects			Number of Prosecutions
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H M. Inspector	
Nuisances under the Public Health Acts:—				
Want of Cleanliness	2	2		
Want of Ventilation... ..				
Overcrowding				
Want of drainage of floors ...				
Other nuisances				
Sanitary accommodation:—				
Insufficient				
Unsuitable or defective ...				
Not separate for sexes ...				
Offences under the Factory and Workshops Acts:—				
Illegal occupation of under-ground bakehouse (s. 101)				
Other Offences				
Total	2	2		

Infectious Disease.

The following Table shows the notifications received of the principal infectious diseases during the period 1920-1924 :—

		1920	1921	1922	1923	1924
Scarlet Fever	...	32	11	9	5	9
Diphtheria	... ..	1	2	—	4	—
Enteric Fever	...	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	... ..	3	2	1	1	1
Puerperal Fever	...	—	—	1	—	—
Ophthal. Neon.	...	1	—	—	—	—

The Number of Scarlet Fever notifications in 1920 was mainly due to an outbreak in Buntingford (27 cases). Previous to this the yearly notifications had been extremely few.

No notification of Enteric Fever has been received during the last ten years.

Diphtheria anti-toxin is kept at the Sanitary Inspector's Office. It is frequently renewed. No use, up to the present, has been made of the Schick or Dick tests.

The notifications (other than those of Tuberculosis) received during the year only numbered 4, viz., 1 Diphtheria, the patient being a resident at a school for mental defectives, 1 Puerperal Fever and 2 Erysipelas. No case of either Scarlet Fever or Enteric Fever was notified.

Tuberculosis. In all 6 cases of Tuberculosis were notified, all of them by Medical Practitioners. All were Pulmonary cases, viz :— 4 males and 2 females. One patient received Sanatorium Treatment and one, aged 75, died.

No action has been necessary under either the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, or the Public Health Act, 1925, sec. 62.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

ROBERT AYTON DUNN.



HADHAM RURAL DISTRICT.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg herewith to present my Annual Report for 1925 for your consideration.

Census Statistics.

The Population of the District at the Census of 1921					was	5,537
„	„	„	„	1911	„	5,795
„	„	„	„	1901	„	5,382
The Area (in Acres)			„	1921	„	25,468
The number of inhabited houses			„	1921	„	1,387
„	„	„	„	1911	„	1,398
„	„	„	„	1901	„	1,273
„	Families or					
	Separate Occupiers			„	1921	„ 1,393
Average Population per house			„	1921	„	4·0
„	„	„	„	1911	„	4·15
„	„	„	„	1901	„	4·09

Natural and Social Conditions.

This district, irregular in shape, is about 11 miles long from North to South and $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles in its broadest part. The ground falls from North to South, being nearly 450ft. above sea level at Brent Pelham, its extreme northern parish, to 125ft. at its most southern—the detached portion of High Wych near the village of Eastwick.

The River Quin, flowing north to south, passes through the parish of Braughing, a parish which juts out on the western side of the district, to join the Rib near Braughing. The River Ash, also flowing north to south, passes fairly through the centre of the district. The ground on the eastern side falls to the River Stort. In this way a

series of parallel valleys occur, with ridges between, running North to South. The soil varies considerably. Below (but in places cropping through to the surface) is the chalk. Supcrimposed on this are varying depths of here clay or a stiff loam, or there gravel or pockets of sand, frequently in close proximity.

The industry of the district is purely agricultural,

1. General Statistics.

Area	...	...	...	...	...	...	25,468 Acres.
Population (Census 1921)	...	...	...	...	...	...	5,537
Population (estimated by Registrar General)	...	...	...	...	...	...	5,352
Number of inhabited Houses (Census 1921)	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,387
Number of Families or separate Occupiers (Census 1921)	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,393
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	...	£41,736
Sum represented by a penny Rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	£129 10s. 1d.

2. Extracts from Vital Statistics.

FOR THE YEAR 1925.

Birth Rate (per 1,000 population)				...	...	...	...	15·5		
Death Rate (per 1,000 population)				...	...	...	...	13·8		
Infant Death Rate (per 1,000 births)				...	...	...	...	60·2		
				Male.	Female.	Total.				
Births	...	{ legitimate	...	39	41	80	}	83		
		{ illegitimate	...	2	1	3				
Infant Deaths		{ legitimate	...	4	1	5	}	5		
		{ illegitimate	...	—	—	—				
Total Deaths				...	...	...	38	36	74	74
Deaths of Women during Childbirth				...	{ (a) from Sepsis		{ (b) from other causes		1	nil.
Deaths from Measles				..	...	...	...	...	nil.	
„	„	Whooping Cough		...	...	...	...	...	nil.	
„	„	Diarrhœa (under two years of age)		...	...	...	...	...	nil.	
„	„	Cancer	...	...	...	...	...	...	12	
„	„	Phthisis	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	

Of the total number of deaths (74), 42 were of persons 65 years of age and upwards, viz.:—five between 65 and 70, twenty-three between 70 and 80, thirteen between 80 and 90, and one over 90.

Causes of Death (Civilians only) during 1925.

						MALES.	FEMALES.
ALL CAUSES	...	...	...	...	...	38	36
1. Enteric Fever...	...	...	...	...	...
2. Small-pox	...	...	...	...	...
3. Measles	...	...	...	...	...
4. Scarlet Fever...	...	...	...	...	...
5. Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...
6. Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...
7. Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	1	
8. Encephalitis Lethargica	...	...	...	...	...
9. Meningococcal Meningitis	...	...	...	...	...
10. Tuberculosis of Respiratory system	...	...	...	...	...		2
11. Other Tuberculous Diseases	...	...	...	...	...		1
12. Cancer, malignant disease	...	...	...	...	...	8	4
13. Rheumatic Fever	...	...	...	...	...		2
14. Diabetes	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
15. Cerebral Hæmorrhage	...	...	...	...	...	4	5
16. Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	...	4	4
17. Arterio-sclerosis	...	...	...	...	...	3	2
18. Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	3	7
19. Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	1	
20. Other respiratory diseases	...	...	...	...	...	1	
21. Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	...	...	...	...	...
22. Diarrhœa (under two years)	...	...	...	...	...
23. Appendicitis	...	...	...	...	...
24. Cirrhosis of liver	...	...	...	...	...
25. Acute and chronic Nephritis	...	...	...	...	...		1
26. Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	...	...	...		1
27. Accidents and Diseases of Parturition	...	...	...	...	...
28. Congenital Debility, Premature Birth, &c.	...	...	...	...	...	1	
29. Suicide	...	...	...	...	...
30. Other deaths from Violence	...	...	...	...	...	2	
31. Other defined Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	9	6
32. Causes ill-defined or unknown	...	...	...	...	...
Special Causes (included above)	...	...	...	...	...
Polio-myelitis	...	...	...	...	...
Polio-Encephalitis	...	...	...	...	...
Anthrax	...	...	...	...	...
Leprosy	...	...	...	...	...	1	

Vital Statistics.

The Vital Statistics are disappointing. The Birth Rate, it is true, is better than that of 1924 but is low. The Death Rate, which is high, remains about the same. It will, however, be noticed that a large proportion of the deaths were those of old people. The Infant Mortality figure, better than that of the previous year, still remains high. For the four years 1920, 1921, 1922 and 1923 it was remarkably low. There were no deaths from the principal Zymotic diseases which include Diarrhœa. The Death Rate from Cancer, as in 1924, was high.

The following figures may prove of interest. In the first place are given the *actual number* of births, deaths, etc., as it is often difficult to correctly estimate a population during the intercensus periods:—

		Year	1925	Average 5 years 1920-1924	Average 5 years 1915-1919	Average 15 years 1900-1914
Births	...		83	99	87·4	115
Deaths	...		74	64·6	79·2	74
Infant Deaths			5	3·4	5	7·8
Phthisis	„		2	2·2	4·2	3·5
Cancer	„		12	9	7·6	6·5
Zymotic	„		nil.	2	2·2	
Diarrhœa	„		nil.	0·2	0·2	—

The following gives the average Rate per 1,000 Population, or in the case of the Infant Mortality per 1,000 Births, for the 5 years, 1920-1924.

Birth Rate	...	...	18·2 per 1000 Population.
Death Rate	...	...	11·9 „ „ „
Infant Death Rate	...	...	34·3 „ 1000 Births.
Phthisis	„	„	0·4 „ 1000 Population.
Cancer	„	„	1·6 „ „ „
Zymotic	„	„	0·36 „ „ „
Diarrhœa Death Rate			0·036 „ „

The amount of *Poor Law Relief* remains fairly stationary.

There has been no special outbreak of sickness or invalidity to call for comment.

General Provision of Health Services in the Area.

The only *Hospital* in the area is a Small-pox Hospital which serves the districts of Bishop's Stortford Urban, Hadham Rural and Stansted Rural. The Isolation Hospital is at Bishop's Stortford. The only other Institution is a small Home for the treatment of Epileptics at Much Hadham.

There are no Clinics or Treatment centres in the area. The Tuberculosis Dispensary and Maternity and Child Welfare Centre are at Bishop's Stortford.

Public Health Officers. These consist of the Medical Officer of Health (who acts for the Combined District) and the Sanitary Inspector. The latter is also Surveyor and acts in the same capacity for the Stansted Rural District. Part of the salary of both these officers is repaid from Exchequer grants. The Surveyor now has an Assistant.

Professional Nursing in the Home. Three Nurses have been provided by the Local Nursing Association, which is affiliated to the County Nursing Association. These do the sick nursing, health visiting, the school work and the Midwifery in the district.

Chemical Work. Any analytical work which is necessary is sent either to a London or Cambridge Laboratory.

Sanitary Circumstances of the District.

WATER SUPPLY.—The only public supply is at Much Hadham. It furnishes a supply for Much Hadham and some of the surrounding hamlets. The water is derived from a deep well in the chalk, whence it is pumped up to a reservoir and is distributed from there by gravitation. The works are at the northern end of the village. The rest of the district is supplied by wells, a large number of these are deep wells.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.—The rivers and streams mentioned earlier in my report, being all tributaries of the Lea, are under the control of the Lea Conservancy Board.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.—The sewage of Much Hadham is treated on land by broad irrigation. The field is situated near the river at the south end of the village. Its management is supervised by two members of the parish. The sewage disposal works at High Wych are quite a small installation. They consist of a sprinkler and

bacteria beds. These, together with a small broad irrigation area for the slop water of some of the houses at Braughing, are at present the only sewage disposal works in the district.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.—The water carriage system is in use at Much Hadham, elsewhere pail closets are used. A few privies still exist in the more rural parts of the district but these are gradually being abolished.

SCAVENGING.—Much Hadham and a part of Braughing (Puckeridge) are the only villages in which there is a system of scavenging established, and this is satisfactorily carried out. In the remainder of the district the house refuse is disposed of on the land.

Sanitary Inspection of the District.

The Sanitary Inspector has furnished me with the following particulars :—

Inspections of Dwelling Houses	...	...	317
Registered and Licensed Premises inspected	...		60
Number of Informal Notices served	...	...	50
Number of Statutory Notices served	...	...	3
Number of Prosecutions	...	...	—
Number of houses erected	...	...	9
Number of houses connected with water mains			4
Number of houses connected with sewers	...		3
Number of Houses disinfected	...	...	42

PREMISES CONTROLLED BY BYE-LAWS.

There are no Common Lodging Houses in the district. For other premises see para. "*Food*."

Schools.

The schools at Much Hadham have water laid on and are connected with the sewer. The other schools are supplied from wells and have earth closets.

Housing.

I. General Housing Conditions.

2a. As in most of my Rural Districts there is an undoubted demand for cottages with a cheap rental which would be available for the agricultural labourer.

2b. In 1921, the Rural District Council erected 38 cottages in various of their villages. These are readily let. Since 1920, 4 houses and 31 cottages have been built by private enterprise and in 4 cottages and 8 houses alterations and additions have taken place. At the moment the District Council are not contemplating building any more cottages. It will be remembered that some time before the war they put up cottages which have proved most beneficial.

3. There are no signs of any important change in the population.

11. OVERCROWDING. As elsewhere isolated cases of overcrowding are sometimes met with but this does not exist to any extent. Reference to the Census Statistics shows that the Population per house in 1921, was barely 4. In 1911 it was 4.15 and in 1901, 4.09. The average number of rooms per person was 1.36 according to the Census of 1921, almost the highest of the Rural Districts in the County.

III. FITNESS OF HOUSES.

a. The general standard of houses may be considered fair. Of course there are a certain number of very old and poor cottages scattered about the district.

b. The general character of serious defects found are dampness, often due to a want of a damp course, want of height of rooms, insufficient window area.

c. The worst defects are constructional and can only be dealt with by demolition. The landlords and tenants appear to be neither worse nor better than the usual run.

2. The only action that has been practicable so far is to keep getting minor defects remedied, *e.g.*, bad thatch, defective guttering, broken plaster on walls, etc.

3. I should hope to see several of the older and more dilapidated cottages closed as soon as fairly cheap ones can be substituted for them.

IV. There are no unhealthy areas in the district.

V. No bye-laws are in force with regard to houses let in lodgings.

Housing Statistics.

For the Year
1925

Number of new houses erected—

(a) Totals	...	...	...	9
(b) Part of Housing Scheme				—
Assisted by subsidy	...			—

UNFIT DWELLING HOUSES.

I. Inspection.

Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ... 127

Number of dwelling houses which were inspected and recorded under "The Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910" 32

Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation (D.89.) 1

Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ... 3

II. Remedy of Defects without service of formal notice.

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers ... 19

III. Action under Statutory Powers.

A. Proceedings under Sec. 3 of "The Housing Act, 1925."

Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ... 3

Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit :—

(a) by owners ... 2

(b) by Local Authority in default of owners nil.

Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by the owners of intention to close	1
---	---

B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

- | | |
|---|------|
| (1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied | nil. |
| (2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied :— | |
| (a) by owners | nil. |
| (b) by Local Authority in default of owners | nil. |

C. Proceedings under secs. 11, 14 and 15 of "The Housing Act, 1925."

- | | |
|---|------|
| 1. Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders | nil. |
| 2. Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made ... | nil. |
| 3. Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling houses having been made fit | nil. |
| 4. Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... | nil. |
| 5. Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... | nil. |

It should be noted that in 1923 a considerable amount of remedial work on cottage property was carried out, for instance 572 houses were inspected, 362 were recorded, 165 notices were served, and in 197 cases remedial work was carried out.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

a. MILK SUPPLY.

The milk supply for the district has been maintained in a satisfactory manner. There has been a further increase of two in the number of Dairies and Cowsheds registered in the district. They now

number twenty-three, whereas in 1922 there were only fourteen. These premises have been periodically inspected. On the whole they are clean and well kept.

There have been no applications for licences to sell special milk under either the Milk and Dairies (Amendment) Act, 1922, or the Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1923, but there is one cowkeeper in the district who holds the licence from the Ministry to sell Grade A Tuberculin tested milk.

b. MEAT.

As has been the case in all my Rural Districts, the new Meat Regulations have been found difficult to carry out strictly with regard to Inspection. I have already pointed out the difficulties in my report on Ware Rural *q.v.*

Visits of inspection have been made to slaughterhouses from time to time, frequently whilst slaughtering was in progress.

The number of Slaughterhouses at different dates was as follows :

	<i>in 1920.</i>	<i>in January, 1925.</i>	<i>December, 1925.</i>
Registered	4	4	6
Licensed	—	—	—
Total	4	4	6

There is also one Knacker's Yard in the district which is licensed.

Bakehouses.

There are nine Bakehouses in the district. These have been periodically inspected. They are fairly well kept.

Report for the year 1925 on the administration of the Factory and Workshops Acts, 1901.

List of Workshops on Register, 1925.

Bakers	...	...	9	Dressmakers	...	2
Smiths	...	...	6	Builders	...	3
Wheelwrights	...	...	3	Bootmakers	...	3
Harnessmakers	...	...	2			

“Factory and Workshops Act, 1901.”

1.—INSPECTION OF FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

Premises.	Number of		
	Inspections	Written Notices	Prosecutions
Factories including Factory			
Laundries	9	2	
Workshops including Workshop			
Laundries	30		
Workplaces other than out- workers' premises			
Total	39	2	

**2.—DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND
WORKPLACES.**

Particulars	Number of Defects			Number of Prosecutions
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H M. Inspector	
Nuisances under the Public Health Acts:—				
Want of Cleanliness	1	1		
Want of Ventilation... ..				
Overcrowding				
Want of drainage of floors ...	1	1		
Other nuisances				
Sanitary accommodation:—				
Insufficient				
Unsuitable or defective ...	1	1		
Not separate for sexes ...				
Offences under the Factory and Workshops Acts:—				
Illegal occupation of under-ground bakehouse (s. 101)				
Other Offences				
Total	3	3		

Infectious Disease.

The following Table shows the notifications received of the principal infectious diseases during the period 1920-1924:—

		1920	1921	1922	1923	1924
Scarlet Fever	...	11	12	17	23	7
Diphtheria	... ..	9	—	1	—	—
Enteric Fever	...	1	—	—	2	1
Erysipelas	... ..	1	—	1	—	1
Puerperal Fever	...	1	1	—	—	—
Ophthal. Neon.	...	1	1	1	—	—

There would appear to be a tendency for an increase of Scarlet Fever cases as compared with previous 5 year periods. There seems no explanation. The other diseases require no special comment.

Diphtheria anti-toxin is kept at the Isolation Hospital at Bishop's Stortford and is promptly administered on the admission of any diphtheria patient.

Practically all cases are removed to hospital.

No use, up to the present, has been made of either the Schick or Dick tests.

Subjoined is a Table of infectious diseases for 1925.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES, 1925.

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	At all ages	Under 1 year	1-2 years	2-3 years	3-4 years	4-5 years	5-10 years	10-15 years	15-20 years	20-35 years	35-45 years	45-65 years	65 years & over	Removed to Hospital	Treated in School Sanatorium	Nursed at home	Died
Small-pox ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria ...	3	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever	31	1	...	...	1	2	10	9	1	5	2	...	...	27	...	4	...
Enteric Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pneumonia ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Malaria ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Dysentery ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Trench Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cerebro-spinal Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Polio-myelitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Encephalitis Lethargica	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	4	...	...	...	3	...	...	1
Other Tuberculosis	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

Of the thirty-one cases of Scarlet fever which were notified, 15 resided in the parish of Braughing and 11 at Much Hadham. Three others were members of the same family living at High Wych.

Of the three Diphtheria cases, one occurred at Furneaux Pelham, one at Stocking Pelham (in neither of these could the Diphtheria bacillus be found on admission to hospital) and one at Braughing.

Tuberculosis. In all 8 notifications of Tuberculosis were received, 6 on Form A (from Medical Practitioners) and 2 on Form C (Sanatoria). Of these eight cases 5 were pulmonary (2 males and 3 females), and three were non-pulmonary (2 males and 1 female).

Of the five pulmonary cases 1 received Sanatorium treatment. One died. One of the non-pulmonary patients has since left the district.

The total number of deaths from tuberculosis was three, two being pulmonary and one non-pulmonary.

No action has been necessary under either the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, or the Public Health Act, 1925, sec. 62.

Tuberculosis Schemes and the treatment of Venereal Diseases are undertaken by the County Council, as is also the Maternity and Child Welfare work.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

ROBERT AYTON DUNN.



WARE RURAL DISTRICT.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg herewith to present my Annual Report for 1925 for your consideration.

Census Statistics.

The Population of the District (estimated) for 1925 was 11,410				
"	"	"	at the Census of 1921	" 11,419
"	"	"	"	1911 " 11,464
"	"	"	"	1901 " 10,891
The Area (in Acres)		"	"	1921 " 33,953
The number of inhabited houses		"	"	1921 " 2,500
"	"	"	"	1911 " 2,453
"	"	"	"	1901 " 2,279
"	Families or			
	Separate Occupiers		"	1921 " 2,519
Average Population per house		"	"	1921 " 4.56
"	"	"	"	1911 " 4.67
"	"	"	"	1901 " 4.8

Natural and Social Conditions.

This district, which is the largest in my area, is roughly 13 miles in length from North to South and 5 miles at its broadest part. It is irregular in shape, faintly like that of England. The ground falls from North to South, being about 420ft. above sea level in the parish of Munden and only 80ft. above sea level at Wormley. The soil varies considerably, consisting of chalk overlaid with gravel or a stiffish loam of varying thicknesses. The river Lea, which up to Ware had been flowing West to East, makes a bend and flowing now North to South runs through the southern part of the district. The New River, which commenced near Ware, follows a parallel course fairly close to it. The main stream supplying the district is the Rib, which rising near Buntingford, at first flows North to South until it reaches Wadesmill when it bends westward and joins the Lea at Ware Park. The river Ash, coming through Hadham, also passes through a part

of the district and discharges into the Lea between Ware and Stanstead Abbots. The Lea is the only river which is navigable for barges. The industry of the district is purely agricultural. In the neighbourhood of Broxbourne and Wormley are a considerable number of glass-houses. It is chiefly served by the Great Eastern branch line from Broxbourne to Hertford and by a branch from this line which runs from St. Margarets to Buntingford.

1. General Statistics.

Area	...	...	...	...	...	...	33,953 Acres.
Population (Census 1921)	...	...	...	...	...	...	11,419
Population (estimated by Registrar General)	...	...	...	...	...	...	11,410
Number of inhabited Houses (Census 1921)	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,500
Number of Families or separate Occupiers (Census 1921)	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,519
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	...	£97,543
Sum represented by a penny Rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	£493 16s. 0d.

2. Extracts from Vital Statistics.

FOR THE YEAR 1925.

Birth Rate (per 1,000 population)	...	...	...	...	15.7
Death Rate (per 1,000 population)	...	...	...	...	10.5
" " " " " after correction by factor	...	...	...	...	8.55
Infant Death Rate (per 1,000 births)	...	...	...	...	33.3
			Male.	Female.	Total.
Births	...	{ legitimate	85	89	174 }
	...	{ illegitimate	2	4	6 }
Infant Deaths	...	{ legitimate	1	4	5 }
	...	{ illegitimate	—	1	1 }
Total Deaths	...	...	58	62	120
Deaths of Women during Childbirth	...	{ (a) from Sepsis			nil.
	...	{ (b) from other causes			nil.
Deaths from Measles	...	...	...	...	1
" " Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	nil.
" " Diarrhoea (under two years of age)	...	...	...	...	nil.
" " Cancer	...	...	...	...	11
" " Phthisis	...	...	...	...	11

Of the total number of deaths (120), 69 were of persons 65 years of age and upwards, viz.:—thirteen between 65 and 70, twenty-seven between 70 and 80, twenty-six between 80 and 90, and three over 90.

Causes of Death (Civilians only) during 1925.

						MALES.	FEMALES.
ALL CAUSES	...	...	...	...	...	58	62
1. Enteric Fever...	...	...	...	...	...
2. Small-pox	...	...	...	...	...
3. Measles	...	...	...	...	...	1	
4. Scarlet Fever...	...	...	...	...	...
5. Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...
6. Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...
7. Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	1	
8. Encephalitis Lethargica	...	...	...	...	...
9. Meningococcal Meningitis	...	...	...	...	...
10. Tuberculosis of Respiratory system	...	...	...	...	...	5	6
11. Other Tuberculous Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	2	
12. Cancer, malignant disease	...	...	...	...	...	5	6
13. Rheumatic Fever	...	...	...	...	...
14. Diabetes	...	...	...	...	...		1
15. Cerebral Hæmorrhage	...	...	...	...	...	8	7
16. Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	...	9	11
17. Arterio-sclerosis	...	...	...	...	...	2	2
18. Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	6	8
19. Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	3	2
20. Other respiratory diseases	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
21. Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
22. Diarrhœa (under two years)	...	...	...	...	...
23. Appendicitis	...	...	...	...	...	1	4
24. Cirrhosis of liver	...	...	...	...	...
25. Acute and chronic Nephritis	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
26. Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	...	...	...
27. Accidents and Diseases of Parturition	...	...	...	...	...
28. Congenital Debility, Premature Birth, &c.	...	...	...	...	...		3
29. Suicide	...	...	...	...	...	3	1
30. Other deaths from Violence	...	...	...	...	...	2	2
31. Other defined Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	7	5
32. Causes ill-defined or unknown	...	...	...	...	...		1
Special Causes (included above)	...	...	...	...	...
Polio-myelitis	...	...	...	...	...
Polio-Encephalitis	...	...	...	...	...
Anthrax	...	...	...	...	...
Leprosy	...	...	...	...	...

Vital Statistics.

The Vital Statistics may be considered fairly satisfactory. The worst feature is the very low Birth Rate.

The Death Rate is low and owing to the Population being over 10,000 the Registrar General has given a correcting factor ($\cdot 815$) which brings it down to the extremely low figure of 8.55.

The Infant Mortality figure is low, which will help to compensate for a low Birth Rate. The Death Rate from Phthisis (Consumption) is somewhat high as compared with previous years.

There was only one death from Zymotic Disease—a boy at a public school who died from Measles.

The following figures may prove of interest. In the first place are given the *actual number* of births, deaths, etc., as it is often difficult to correctly estimate a population during the intercensus periods:—

	Year	1925	Average 5 years 1920-1924	Average 5 years 1915-1919	Average 15 years 1900-1914
Births	...	180	209	167	221
Deaths	...	120	140.4	138	124.3
Infant Deaths		6	9.4	10	14.4
Phthisis	„	11	8.2	10.4	8.5
Cancer	„	11	17.8	15.2	10.7
Zymotic	„	1	3.8	5.2	
Diarrhœa	„	nil.	0.6	0.6	—

The following gives the average Rate per 1,000 Population, or in the case of the Infant Mortality per 1,000 Births, for the 5 years, 1920-1924.

Birth Rate	...	...	18.7 per 1000 Population.
Death Rate	...	...	12.5 „ „ „
Infant Death Rate	...		45.0 „ 1000 Births.
Phthisis	„	„	0.73 „ 1000 Population.
Cancer	„	„	1.59 „ „ „
Zymotic	„	„	0.34 „ „ „
Diarrhœa Death Rate			0.05 „ „

The amount of *Poor Law Relief* appears to remain fairly stationary.

During the past 5 years there has been no serious incidence of sickness in the district except a small outbreak of 6 cases of Typhoid Fever at Stanstead Abbots in 1921 which was the subject of a special report.

General Provision of Health Services in the Area.

There are no *Hospitals* in the area. The sick seek relief at the Hertford County Hospital.

The infectious cases are removed to the Isolation Hospital which is also in the Borough. There is a Poor Law Infirmary at Ware.

There are no *Clinics and Treatment Centres* actually in the Rural District.

The *Public Health Officers* consist of the Medical Officer of Health (who acts for the Combined District) and a Sanitary Inspector, who is also the Surveyor. The Salaries of both officers are subsidized by Exchequer grants. There is an Assistant to the Surveyor who has recently passed the necessary examination for Sanitary Inspectors.

PROFESSIONAL NURSING IN THE HOME.

The various local Nursing Associations, who are affiliated to the County Nursing Association, have provided 8 nurses for the District. These carry out the work of midwifery, sick nursing, health visiting and school work. There is also one nurse who practises privately.

Chemical Work. Samples of water, etc., are sent to a laboratory in London for analysis. Twenty-six samples were submitted to the Analyst in connection with the Broxbourne water supply.

Adoptive Acts. There are no adoptive Acts in force in the District.

Sanitary Circumstances of the District.

WATER SUPPLY.—The parishes of Broxbourne and Wormley have a piped and continuous supply which is under the control of the District Council. The water is derived from a deep well sunk into the chalk. It is supplied from a reservoir by gravitation. Until the end of 1924, frequent analyses had shown the water to be of excellent quality. Then the analyst reported that it was not up to its usual

standard, and he expressed the opinion that extraneous water was getting into the bore hole. Steps were taken to try to trace the origin of this pollution, which was described as being of the nature of river water. The Ministry of Health were communicated with and two of their Inspectors came down to help in the investigation, together with Dr. Thresh. They, too, came to the conclusion that probably New River water (the New River runs a short distance from the well) was finding its way down the tube and into the well. They advised chlorination and this was promptly done and has since been systematically carried out by a Paterson Pulser type Chloronome. The results of several subsequent analyses show that this is effective.

In all 25 samples of this well water have been submitted for analysis.

The parish of Great Amwell obtains its water, partly from the Metropolitan Water Board and partly from the Ware Urban District Council. Stanstead Abbotts and some other parts of the district have tube wells sunk into the chalk. The rest are supplied by wells. Every care is taken to prevent these becoming contaminated by surface pollution.

The following gives a resumé of work done in connection with some of the other wells in the district :—

Dane End. The pump at the Council cottages at Dane End, Little Munden, has been repaired.

Haultwick. The pumps at this public well have been overhauled and put in good working order.

Great Munden. The well at Henworth Hall, which is privately owned and which supplies the Council Cottages, has been put in order.

Water Samples. Five samples of water were taken for analysis, viz :—from Widford 1, Standon 2, Great Amwell 1 and Ware Rural 1.

The one taken at Widford from a private well was found to be unfit for drinking purposes. The owner and tenants were immediately advised and the source of supply closed. The other 4 samples were satisfactory.

An extension of the water main at Baas Hill, Broxbourne, for a distance of 540ft. has been agreed to. This will afford a supply to 3 large houses which are being built there.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.—The river Lea and all its tributaries are under the supervision and control of the Lea Conservancy Board.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.—Broxbourne, Wormley, part of Great Amwell and Stanstead Abbots have Sewage Disposal Works on the broad Irrigation system. In the first three, the sewage reaches the farm by gravitation, but in the latter it has to be pumped up on to the outfall works. These have all been maintained during the year in a satisfactory manner. A very serious blockage occurred in the main sewer at Stanstead Abbots which necessitated the pumping of the sewage, breaking down to the defect and the cutting of the iron sewer and removal of the blockage. This involved considerable expense.

There is also a small disposal works at Hunsdon. During the year a new storage tank has been completed here and is in use. In the other parts of the district Cesspits or small Septic tanks are in vogue, the latter proving generally beneficial. Only in the very low lying parts of the district is any difficulty experienced.

Plans and specifications for an extension of the 9 inch sewer in New Road, Broxbourne, for 857 feet have been prepared.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.—Where a sewage scheme is available Water Closets are provided. Elsewhere Earth Closets are used. Privies have practically been abolished. Roughly for the different types the figures are :—

Water Closets 50 %, Earth Closets 48 % and Privies 2 %.

SCAVENGING is undertaken in the parishes of Broxbourne, Wormley, Standon, Puckeridge, part of Great Amwell, Thundridge and Wadesmill. In Standon, Puckeridge, part of Great Amwell, Thundridge and Wadesmill, where no sewers exist, the contents of the earth Closets as well as the house refuse are scavenged. The scavenging of Stanstead Abbots, which had been recommended for some years, is now in operation and proved a very beneficial institution.

Annual Report of the Sanitary Inspector for the Year 1925.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit for your information the following report of the work done during the year ended 1925.

GENERAL INFORMATION.

The particulars of inspections and action taken, are as follows:—

Dwelling Houses inspected	...	...	...	315
Inspection of various other premises	...	...	...	225
Registered and Licensed Premises inspected	...	...	...	213
Number of Informal Notices served	...	...	...	208
Number of Statutory Notices served	...	...	...	15
Number of Letters sent	...	...	...	410
Number of Prosecutions	...	...	...
Number of Improvements carried out	...	...	...	272

The following is a tabulated statement of the improvements:—

Drains relaid	...	...	...	...	15
Drains cleansed	...	...	...	...	21
Drains improved	...	...	...	...	26
W.C.'s and E.C.'s repaired	...	...	...	...	24
New W.C.'s provided	...	...	...	...	30
New E.C.'s provided	...	...	...	...	22
W.C.'s supplied with water	...	...	...	...	24
Dustbins provided	...	...	...	...	32
Houses cleansed	...	...	...	...	31
Defective sinks repaired	...	...	...	...	7
Wells cleansed and repaired	...	...	...	...	11
Dampness attended to	...	...	...	...	26
Overcrowding abated	...	...	...	...	3
Total				...	272

Number of houses erected or rebuilt	42
Number of houses connected with sewers ...	12
Number of houses connected with water mains	19
Number of Premises disinfected after infectious disease	54
Samples of Water taken for analysis	31

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

H. J. JACKSON.

PREMISES CONTROLLED BY BYE-LAWS.

There are no Common Lodging Houses in the district.

Schools.

Your Medical Officer of Health, with your permission, acts as Assistant School Medical Officer for most of the schools in your District, the exceptions being those of Standon, Puekeridge and Munden.

The schools have all been regularly inspected. Only in the cases of Broxbourne and Wormley is water laid on from the public main.

Housing.

I. General Housing Conditions.

2a. There would still appear to be some shortage of cottages, especially of those of a rent suitable for agricultural labourers, in certain parts of the district.

2b. Besides the 142 cottages erected by the Council in 1921 and 1922, it is now contemplated to build 80 further houses, *viz*:—at Standon, Gt. Munden, L. Munden, High Cross and Collicers End, Broxbourne and Stanstead Abbotts.

Since 1921 about 101 houses have been put up by private enterprise in addition to those stated above.

3. There are no signs of any important change in the population at present, but it is likely that before long building may take place in the neighbourhood of Broxbourne and Wormley, doubtless owing to their proximity to London.

II. OVERCROWDING. Although there may be isolated cases of overcrowding in various parts of the district this is not general. If reference be made to the Census returns at the commencement of this Report it will be seen that the Population per house has steadily fallen. It was 4·8 in 1901, 4·67 in 1911, and 4·56 in 1921. According to the Census returns 1921, the average number of rooms per person is 1·32 in Ware Rural District as compared with 1·27 for the County as a whole.

III. FITNESS OF HOUSES.

a. The general standard of houses is fair, though there are a good many poorish cottages in the district.

b. The general character of defects found is most frequently dampness due to want of damp courses, lowness of ceilings, insufficient window area with regard to the floor space.

c. The defects are mainly constructional and in most of the cases the best remedy would be the demolition of the house.

As I have had to state with regard to all my districts there are good and bad landlords and good and bad tenants met with in every village.

2. It has been, and I am afraid will continue to be, extremely difficult to deal more than gradually with some of these old houses. When cheap cottages come along the difficulty will soon be solved. But the agricultural labourer must have a cheap cottage. The best that can be done is to keep on getting minor defects (e.g., bad water spouting, broken plaster and weather boards and roofs, etc.) remedied so as to tide over the difficulty for the present.

IV. There are no unhealthy areas in the district.

V. There are no bye-laws with regard to houses let in lodgings.

Housing Statistics.

	For the Year 1925
Number of new houses erected—	
(a) Totals 	32
(b) Part of Housing Scheme	—
Assisted by subsidy ...	9

UNFIT DWELLING HOUSES.

1. Inspection.

Total number of dwelling houses inspected for

housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	315
Number of dwelling houses which were inspected and recorded under "The Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910"	92
Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation (D.89.)	2
Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ...	45
II. Remedy of Defects without service of formal notice.	
Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers ...	37
III. Action under Statutory Powers.	
A. Proceedings under Sec. 3 of "The Housing Act, 1925."	
Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ...	nil.
Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit:—	
(a) by owners	nil.
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners	nil.
Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by the owners of intention to close	nil.
B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts.	
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	12

(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied :—

(a) by owners	12
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners	nil.

C. Proceedings under secs. 11, 14 and 15 of "The Housing Act, 1925."

1. Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders	nil.
2. Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made ...	nil.
3. Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling houses having been made fit	nil.
4. Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ...	nil.
5. Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ...	nil.

Food.

MILK.

The supply for the district appears to have been well maintained.

The number of wholesale traders and producers of milk in the district is 85 and the retail purveyors 56. This is an increase of one on the previous year.

MEAT.

Slaughterhouses.

The number of Slaughterhouses in the district at different dates was as follows :—

	<i>in 1920.</i>	<i>in January, 1925.</i>	<i>December, 1925.</i>
Registered	10	10	12
Licensed	—	—	—

There is also 1 Knaekers yard. This is licensed and has been in continuous use from before 1920.

Every endeavour has been made to carry out the new Meat Regulations, but it has been found impossible to do this in the way that it can be done in an Urban District. The difficulties met with have been :—

First. The size of the district (13 miles by 5 miles).

Secondly. The number of private slaughterhouses (12). There is no public abattoir in the area.

Thirdly. The fact that slaughtering takes place daily (sometimes on Sundays) in several, at the same time many miles apart.

Fourthly. That it sometimes happens that the Inspector, having been notified, makes a long journey to a slaughterhouse. He then finds slaughtering has been postponed.

He has during the year, paid a considerable number of visits, and has found, as a rule, that the butchers are willing to co-operate. Very little diseased meat has been discovered.

Bakchouses.

These number 11. They are regularly inspected and maintained in a cleanly condition. Three bakehouses have been given up during the year.

Report for the year 1925 on the administration of the Factory and Workshops Act, 1901.

Number of Workshops on Register at the end of the year, 1925 :—

Workshops and Workplaces ...	...	...	76
Bakchouses ...	...	...	11

List of Workshops on Register, 1925.

Bakers ...	...	11	Coachbuilders ...	1
Dressmakers ...	...	4	Wheelwrights ...	3
Tailors ...	...	1	Carpenters... ...	3
Builders ...	...	9	Cycle Works ...	2
Maltings ...	...	6	Barbers ...	3
Blacksmiths ...	...	11	Terra Cotta Maker	1
Laundries ...	...	3	Bootmakers ...	7
Harnessmakers ...	...	2	Engineers ...	8
Plumbers ...	...	2	Various ...	10

“Factory and Workshops Act, 1901.”

1. —INSPECTION OF FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

Premises.	Number of		
	Inspections	Written Notices	Prosecutions
Factories including Factory			
Laundries	6	1	
Workshops including Workshop			
Laundries	110	4	
Workplaces other than out- workers' premises	4		
Total	120	5	

2.— DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

Particulars	Number of Defects			Number of Prosecutions
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H M. Inspector	
Nuisances under the Public Health Acts:—				
Want of Cleanliness	3	3		
Want of Ventilation... ..				
Overcrowding				
Want of drainage of floors ...				
Other nuisances				
Sanitary accommodation:—				
Insufficient				
Unsuitable or defective	2	2		
Not separate for sexes				
Offences under the Factory and Workshops Acts:—				
Illegal occupation of under-ground bakehouse (s. 101)				
Other Offences				
Total	5	5		

Outwork in Unwholesome Premises, sec. 108 nil

Infectious Disease.

The following Table shows the notifications received of the principal infectious diseases during the period 1920-1924:—

	1920	1921	1922	1923	1924
Scarlet Fever ...	66	38	31	15	26
Diphtheria ...	43	18	1	14	4
Enteric Fever ...	2	8	3	2	7
Erysipelas ...	4	5	2	—	2
Puerperal Fever ...	1	1	—	1	1
Ophthal. Neon. ...	1	—	—	—	—

The above figures call for very few comments. The rather excessive number of cases of Scarlet Fever in 1920 was chiefly due to outbreaks in two villages *viz*:—Wadesmill and Wormley, eighteen cases in each. That from Diphtheria in four villages, *viz*:—Broxbourne, Gilston, Hunsdon and Eastwick. It will be noticed that there were 8 cases of Enteric Fever in 1921. Six of the patients resided at Stanstead Abbots.

A special report was made on this outbreak. Of the seven cases notified in 1924, four were Para. B.

Diphtheria anti-toxin is kept at the Isolation Hospital, Hertford, and administered forthwith on a patient's admission. Practically every case notified is removed to the Hospital.

No use, up to the present, has been made of either the Schick or Dick tests.

Subjoined is a Table of infectious diseases notified in 1925.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES, 1925.

	At all ages	Under 1 year	1-2 years	2-3 years	3-4 years	4-5 years	5-10 years	10-15 years	15-20 years	20-35 years	35-45 years	45-65 years	65 years & over	Removed to Hospital	Treated in School Sanatorium	Nursed at home	Died
Small-pox ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Scarlet Fever	34	1	...	2	...	4	16	6	3	1	1	...	...	34	...	...	...
Enteric Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pneumonia ...	3	...	...	...	1	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Malaria ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Dysentery ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Trench Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cerebro-spinal Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Polio-myelitis	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Encephalitis Lethargica	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	13	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	5	4	1	...	11	...	...	4
Other Tuberculosis	8	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	3	2	...	1	...	3	...	...	...

It is satisfactory to record only 1 notification of *Diphtheria*. The patient was at a public school and was nursed in the School sanatorium. Of the 34 cases of Scarlet Fever 15 occurred at Stanstead Abbotts and 9 at Thundridge and Wadesmill. The school at Stanstead Abbotts was closed in consequence for $3\frac{1}{2}$ weeks in March.

No notification of Enteric Fever was received during the year.

Tuberculosis.

In all, 21 notifications of Tuberculosis were received.

Of these twenty-one cases, 13 were pulmonary, 5 being males and 8 being females. Eight were non-pulmonary cases (6 males and 2 females).

Of the thirteen pulmonary cases eleven were treated in Sanatoria. Four of these patients died during the year.

Of the eight non-pulmonary cases three received hospital treatment. None died.

The total number of deaths from Tuberculosis during the year was thirteen, *viz* :—11 pulmonary (5 males and 6 females) and 2 non-pulmonary, both males. No action has been necessary under either the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925 or the Public Health Act, 1925, Sec. 62.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

ROBERT AYTON DUNN.



HERTFORD RURAL DISTRICT.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg herewith to present my Annual Report for 1925 for your consideration.

Census Statistics.

The Population of the District (estimated) for 1925 was	7,255
„ „ „ at the Census of 1921 „	7,212
„ „ „ „ 1911 „	7,659
„ „ „ „ 1901 „	7,715
The Area (in Acres) „ „ 1921 „	33,468
„ „ „ „ 1911 „	33,835
The number of inhabited houses „ 1921 „	1,701
„ „ „ „ 1911 „	1,739
„ „ „ „ 1901 „	1,658
„ Families or	
Separate Occupiers „ 1921 „	1,731
Average Population per house „ 1921 „	4.23
„ „ „ „ 1911 „	4.4
„ „ „ „ 1901 „	4.57

Natural and Social Conditions.

The District is about 12 miles from North to South and 6 miles in its widest part. The ground falls both from the North and South to the valley of the Lea, which, running roughly West to East, cuts the district into two unequal parts. Three quarters lies to the North and one quarter to the South of it. The River Beane, flowing North to South, passes roughly through the centre of the northern portion to join the Lea at Hertford. The Lea is not navigable for barge traffic West of Hertford. The highest point of the district is at Walkern Park, which is 426ft. above sea level. The lowest is in the neighbourhood of Hertford, 125ft.

The soil varies; in places gravel, in others clay of varying thicknesses over the chalk. Sometimes the chalk crops through to the surface.

The district is poorly served by railways. The Hatfield to Hertford branch of the L. & N.E.R., passes through part of it. A new loop line of the same Company, running from Stevenage through Hertford to Wood Green was opened in June, 1924. It has stations at Stapleford and Watton, but so far the train service is very restricted.

The occupation of the inhabitants is purely agricultural.

1. General Statistics.

Area	...	...	...	...	...	33,468 Acres.
Population (Census 1921)	...	...	...	...	...	7,212
Population (estimated by Registrar General)	...	...	...	...	...	7,255
Number of inhabited Houses (Census 1921)	...	...	...	...	...	1,701
Number of Families or separate Occupiers (Census 1921)	...	...	...	...	...	1,731
Sum represented by a penny Rate	...	...	...	...	...	£186 0s. 0d.

2. Extracts from Vital Statistics.

FOR THE YEAR 1925.

Birth Rate (per 1,000 population)				17·
Death Rate (per 1,000 population)				12·6
Infant Death Rate (per 1,000 births)				16·1
				Male.	Female.	Total.		
Births	...	{ legitimate	...	66	55	121	124	
		{ illegitimate	...	3	—	3		
Infant Deaths		{ legitimate	...	2	—	2	2	
		{ illegitimate	...	—	—	—		
Total Deaths		...	...	53	39	92	92
Deaths of Women during Childbirth				...	{ (a) from Sepsis	nil.		
					{ (b) from other causes	nil.		
Deaths from Measles		..	...	...	...	...	nil.
„	„	Whooping Cough		...	...	...	nil.
„	„	Diarrhoea (under two years of age)				...	nil.	
„	„	Cancer	...	...	...	...	11
„	„	Phthisis	...	...	...	...	4

Of the total number of deaths (92), 58 were of persons 65 years of age and upwards, viz.:—eight between 65 and 70, twenty-seven between 70 and 80, eighteen between 80 and 90, and five over 90.

Causes of Death (Civilians only) during 1925.

						MALES.	FEMALES.
ALL CAUSES	...	...	...	...	...	53	39
1. Enteric Fever...	...	...	...	...	...
2. Small-pox	...	...	...	...	...
3. Measles	...	...	...	...	...
4. Scarlet Fever...	...	...	...	...	...
5. Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...
6. Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...
7. Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	2	1
8. Encephalitis Lethargica	...	...	...	...	...
9. Meningococcal Meningitis	...	...	...	...	...
10. Tuberculosis of Respiratory system	...	...	...	...	...	2	2
11. Other Tuberculous Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	2	1
12. Cancer, malignant disease	...	...	...	...	...	6	5
13. Rheumatic Fever	...	...	...	...	...
14. Diabetes	...	...	...	...	...		1
15. Cerebral Hæmorrhage	...	...	...	...	...	6	4
16. Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	...	6	11
17. Arterio-sclerosis	...	...	...	...	...	1	2
18. Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	7	3
19. Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	3	1
20. Other respiratory diseases	...	...	...	...	...	1	
21. Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	...	...	...	...	...
22. Diarrhœa (under two years)	...	...	...	...	...
23. Appendicitis	...	...	...	...	...
24. Cirrhosis of liver	...	...	...	...	...	2	
25. Acute and chronic Nephritis	...	...	...	...	...		1
26. Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	...	...	...
27. Accidents and Diseases of Parturition	...	...	...	...	...
28. Congenital Debility, Premature Birth, &c.	...	...	...	...	...	1	
29. Suicide	...	...	...	...	...
30. Other deaths from Violence	...	...	...	...	...	3	1
31. Other defined Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	9	6
32. Causes ill-defined or unknown	...	...	...	...	...	2	
Special Causes (included above)	...	...	...	...	...
Polio-myelitis	...	...	...	...	...
Polio-Encephalitis	...	...	...	...	...
Anthrax	...	...	...	...	...
Leprosy	...	...	...	...	...

Vital Statistics.

The Vital Statistics are better than those of 1924. The Birth Rate, which was very low has gone up 3 per 1,000. The Death Rate is fractionally higher but this may be accounted for by the increase in the deaths of old people. The Infant Mortality is exceptionally low.

There were no deaths from any of the Zymotic diseases.

The following figures may prove of interest. In the first place are given the *actual number* of births, deaths, etc., as it is often difficult to correctly estimate a population during the intercensus periods:—

		Year	1925	Average 5 years 1920-1924	Average 5 years 1915-1919	Average 15 years 1900-1914
Births	...		124	127	118·4	163·6
Deaths	...		92	83	88·4	93·4
Infant Deaths			2	7	10·4	12·2
Phthisis	„		4	3·6	4	5·4
Cancer	„		11	10	8·6	9·2
Zymotic	„		nil.	1·6	1·6	
Diarrhœa	„		nil.	nil.	0·2	—

The following gives the average Rate per 1,000 Population, or in the case of the Infant Mortality per 1,000 Births, for the 5 years, 1920-1924.

Birth Rate	...	...	17·7 per 1000 Population.
Death Rate	...	...	11·5 „ „ „
Infant Death Rate	...		53·4 „ 1000 Births.
Phthisis	„	„	0·5 „ 1000 Population.
Cancer	„	„	1·39 „ „ „
Zymotic	„	„	0·22 „ „ „
Diarrhœa Death Rate			nil. „ „

The amount of *Poor Law* Relief does not show any material alteration.

There have been no causes of invalidity or sickness in the district which would call for special comment.

General Provision of Health Services in the Area.

The only hospital in the area is one for Small-pox which is situated in the parish of Stapleford. This is under the Hertford and Ware Joint Hospital Board and serves the same area as the Isolation Hospital.

The sick are treated for the most part at the Hertford County Hospital, at which Institution an Ambulance is provided. A few of the sick in the northern extremity of the district are treated at Hitchin.

There are no *Clinics or Treatment Centres* actually in the district.

The Public Health Officers consist of a Medical Officer of Health (who acts for a Combined District) and a Sanitary Inspector who also acts as Surveyor. He has a temporary Assistant. The salary of both the senior officers is subsidized from Exchequer grants.

Nursing. Six nurses have been provided by the County Nursing Association. These carry out the midwifery, sick nursing, health visiting and school work in the district.

Chemical Work. Samples of water or milk are submitted to an Analyst at his laboratory in London when required.

Sanitary Circumstances of the District.

WATER SUPPLY.—The parishes of Datchworth and Tewin have a piped supply. This is obtained in bulk from the Welwyn Rural District Council. Stand-pipes are arranged at convenient distances near each group of cottages. This supply has been extended to the parish of Bramfield.

Waterford village also obtains water from stand pipes from a piped supply.

The houses at Hertford Heath, Little Amwell, are supplied by the Metropolitan Water Board.

The village of Bayford has a piped supply, which is under the control of the District Council.

Some parts of Benington also obtain their water from private piped supplies.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.—The Lea and all its tributaries are under the supervision and control of the Lea Conservancy Board.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE. Part of the Watton sewage is treated on a piece of land by broad irrigation.

The sewage at Walkern is also treated by broad irrigation on land planted with willow trees. The farm is about 1 mile south of the village.

The sewage from Hertford Heath is treated on three acres of land laid out on the ridge and furrow system. Open bacterial tanks and filters are used prior to the land treatment. The farm is under the management of a Joint Board, consisting of members from both the Hertford and Ware Rural District Councils.

New outfall works have been provided for Tewin. They deal with the sewage by sub-irrigation after it has passed through a sedimentation tank.

New sewage disposal works are in course of construction at Waterford. They will consist of a collecting tank in the village to which the sewage will flow by gravitation. From this it will be pumped up by an automatic electric pump to a plot of ground and there disposed of by sub-irrigation. This has been approved by the Ministry of Health after two local enquiries.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.—With the exception of Hertford Heath, which is provided with W.C.'s, the remainder of the district depends almost entirely on E.C.'s. There are hardly any pit closets in existence. A certain number drain into cesspools.

SCAVENGING.—No public scavenging is undertaken. Most of the house refuse is placed on the gardens.

Annual Report of the Sanitary Inspector for the Year 1925.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit for your consideration the following Report of work carried out in your district during 1925.

GENERAL INFORMATION.

The particulars of inspections and action taken, are as follows:—

Dwelling Houses inspected	...	...	...	559
Registered and Licensed Premises inspected	...	...	...	136
Number of Informal Notices served	...	...	...	48
Number of Statutory Notices served	...	...	...	20

Number of Prosecutions	...	...	...	—
Number of houses erected	...	...	...	12
Number of houses connected with water mains				9
Number of houses connected with sewers				16
Number of Houses disinfected	...	...	...	17
Inspection of various other premises	...	...		9
Canal Boats inspected	...	...	...	—
Number of Improvements carried out	...	...		121

The following is a tabulated statement of the improvements :—

Drains cleansed	...	...	...	...	9
Drains improved	...	...	...	...	16
W.C.'s and E.C.'s repaired	...	...	...		6
W.C.'s supplied with water	...	...	...		12
E.C.'s provided	...	...	...	...	9
Defective paving repaired	...	...	..		—
Houses cleansed	...	...	...	...	3
Defective sinks repaired	...	...	...	...	—
Dampness attended to	...	...	...	...	27
Wells cleansed and repaired	...	...	...		2
Overcrowding abated	...	...	...	...	2
Nuisances from Animals abated			...	...	2
Roofs repaired	...	...	...	...	24
Offensive Accumulations removed			...	...	3
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	6
Total				...	121

PREMISES CONTROLLED BY BYE-LAWS.

There is no *Common Lodging House* in the District. For other premises controlled by bye-laws see "Food."

Schools.

With your permission your Medical Officer of Health acts as Assistant School Medical Officer. Each of the 15 schools has been regularly inspected. A new school has been erected by the Herts County Council at Walkern, to replace a very unsuitable building. It has a piped water supply, W.C.'s fitted with flushing cisterns and connected with the sewer. It is supplied with water and electric light from an adjoining Brewery. Water is also laid on at Hertford Heath, Tewin, Waterford, Benington and Datchworth schools.

Housing.

I. General Housing Conditions.

2a. As there are usually several applicants for any vacant Council cottage it would appear that there is still a shortage, especially of cottages at a rental suitable to the agricultural labourer.

2b. Besides the 82 cottages which the Council erected in 1921, they are at present engaged in building 32 more, some of which are nearing completion. These are 8 at Hertford Heath and 4 each at Aston, Benington, Hertingfordbury, Tewin, Tonwell and Walkern.

3. There are no signs at present of any material change in the population.

II. OVERCROWDING. A certain amount of overcrowding has been met with and some of it remedied by getting families into the Council Cottages. There is a tendency for tenants to sublet two or more rooms so as to meet the increased rent. Referring to the Census figures at the commencement of this Report, it will be noticed that there has been a steady decrease during the last twenty years in the average population per house viz.:—from 4.57 in 1901 to 4.4 in 1911 and 4.23 in 1921.

III.a. The general standard of cottages is fair but in most villages there are several of a very old type which ought to be replaced.

b. The general character of defects found in these old houses is, as might be expected, dampness due to want of damp courses, want of height of rooms, too small a window area.

c. The defects are mainly constructional and the only remedy is demolition. The houses must originally have been very well built to last so long.

There are many examples of good and bad landlords and good and bad tenants. As I have pointed out there is a class (possibly a small one) of tenants in practically every village who do not seem at all particular as to the conditions in which they live and who resent the suggestion of removal.

There are signs, however, that the rising generation is not so easily satisfied and this should prove very helpful.

2. With regard to those houses which are constructionally unfit nothing can be done at present. Minor defects are remedied usually without recourse to a formal notice.

3. A difficulty that sometimes arises is that landlords say they cannot carry out the necessary repairs until the tenants vacate. As there are seldom cottages available at a reasonable rental some delay is caused.

IV. There are no unhealthy areas in the district.

V. There are no bye-laws in force with regard to houses let in lodgings.

Housing Statistics.

	For the Year 1925
Number of new houses erected—	
(a) Totals	12
(b) Part of Housing Scheme	—
Assisted by subsidy ...	—
UNFIT DWELLING HOUSES.	
I. Inspection.	
Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	6
Number of dwelling houses which were inspected and recorded under “The Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910”	553
Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation (D.89.)	8
Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ...	13
II. Remedy of Defects without service of formal notice.	
Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers ...	30

III. Action under Statutory Powers.

A. Proceedings under Sec. 3 of "The Housing Act, 1925."

Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ...	nil.
---	------

Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit:—

(a) by owners	nil.
----------------------	------

(b) by Local Authority in default of owners	nil.
---	------

Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by the owners of intention to close	nil.
---	------

B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	8
---	---

(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied:—

(a) by owners	8
----------------------	---

(b) by Local Authority in default of owners	nil.
---	------

C. Proceedings under secs. 11, 14 and 15 of "The Housing Act, 1925."

1. Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders	nil.
---	------

2. Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made ...	nil.
---	------

3. Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling houses having been made fit	nil.
---	------

4. Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ...	nil.
--	------

5. Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ...	nil.
---	------

Food.

MILK.

No difficulty has been reported with regard to the adequacy of the arrangements of supply of milk in the district.

The number of Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops on the Register is fifty-one, the same as in 1924. They have been periodically inspected and on the whole are well kept.

No cowkeeper has applied for a licence under the Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1923.

MEAT.

The number of Slaughterhouses in the district at different dates was as follows :—

	<i>in 1920.</i>	<i>in January, 1925.</i>	<i>December, 1925.</i>
Registered	3	4	4
Licensed	—	—	2
	—	—	—
Total	3	4	6
	—	—	—

There is no Knaekers yard in the District.

As in all my other Districts (especially the Rural ones) difficulty has been experienced in strictly carrying out the new Meat Regulations with regard to inspection. I have pointed these out in my Report on Ware Rural (*q.v.*). As there is no public abattoir in the area and the butchers are slaughtering often at the same time in different parts of the district it is impossible for the Inspector to be present. He has, however, visited on many occasions, especially when slaughtering is taking place. He found it necessary to condemn one whole sheep and one lot of offals (pigs).

Bakehouses.

These number eight and have been inspected at least twice in the year. They are fairly well kept.

Report for the year 1925 on the administration of the Factory and Workshops Act, 1901.

List of Workshops on Register, 1925.

Tailors	...	...	2	Brickmakers	...	3
Bakers	...	...	8	Builders	...	2
Harnessmakers	...	2		Laundries	...	10
				Blacksmiths	...	} 14
				Wheelwrights	...	

“Factory and Workshops Act, 1901.”

1.—INSPECTION OF FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

Premises.	Number of		
	Inspections	Written Notices	Prosecutions
Factories including Factory			
Laundries			
Workshops including Workshop			
Laundries	36		
Workplaces other than out- workers' premises	5		
Total	41		

**2. DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND
WORKPLACES.**

Particulars	Number of Defects			Number of Prosecu- tions
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H M. Inspector	
Nuisances under the Public Health Acts:—				
Want of Cleanliness				
Want of Ventilation... ..				
Overcrowding				
Want of drainage of floors				
Other nuisances				
Sanitary accommodation:—				
Insufficient				
Unsuitable or defective				
Not separate for sexes				
Offences under the Factory and Workshops Acts:—				
Illegal occupation of under- ground bakehouse (s. 101)				
Other Offences				
Total				

Infectious Disease.

The following Table shows the notifications received of the principal infectious diseases during the period 1920-1924:—

			1920	1921	1922	1923	1924
Scarlet Fever	...		10	16	8	5	1
Diphtheria	...	...	12	5	2	7	—
Enteric Fever	...		1	—	—	—	1
Erysipelas	...	...	2	—	—	2	4
Puerperal Fever	...		—	—	—	—	1
Ophthal. Neon.	...		—	1	—	1	—

There appears to be nothing in the above Table to call for special comment.

Diphtheria anti-toxin is kept at the Isolation Hospital at Hertford, to which practically every case is admitted. It is promptly administered as soon as the Diphtheria patient comes in.

No use, up to the present, has been made of either the Schick or Dick tests.

Subjoined is a Table of notifications.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES, 1925.

	At all ages	Under 1 year	1-2 years	2-3 years	3-4 years	4-5 years	5-10 years	10-15 years	15-20 years	20-35 years	35-45 years	45-65 years	65 years & over	Removed to Hospital	Treated in School Sanatorium	Nursed at home	Died
Small-pox ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria ...	2	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever	4	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	1	...	...	...	...	4	...	...	...
Enteric Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pneumonia ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ophthalmia	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Neonatorum	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas ...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...
Malaria	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Dysentery ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Trench Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cerebro-spinal Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Polio-myelitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Encephalitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Lethargica	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	12	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	3	7	1	...	9	...	...	1
Other Tuberculosis	5	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	1	1	1	...	...	1	...	...	1

Of the four Scarlet Fever cases, three occurred at Stapleford—2 being members of the same family. The other case was from Sacombe. Of the two Diphtheria cases 1 occurred at Westmill and 1 at Hertford Heath. All these patients were removed to hospital.

No case of Enteric Fever was reported.

Tuberculosis.

In all, 17 notifications of Tuberculosis were received, fifteen were on Form A (by Medical Practitioners) and two on Form C (from Sanatoria). Besides these there were two transfers from other districts.

Of these seventeen cases, 12 were pulmonary, 6 being males and 6 females. Five were non-pulmonary (2 males and 3 females).

Of the 12 pulmonary cases 9 were treated in Sanatoria. One patient died. In one no signs of active disease could be found at the Sanatorium. One has since left the district. Of the 5 non-pulmonary cases one patient died. One received hospital treatment.

The total number of deaths during the year was seven (4 pulmonary and 3 non-pulmonary,

No action has been necessary under either the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, or the Public Health Act, 1925, Sec. 62.

Tuberculosis schemes and the treatment of Venereal Diseases are administered by the County Council.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

ROBERT AYTON DUNN.



STANSTED RURAL DISTRICT.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg herewith to present my Annual Report for 1925 for your consideration.

Census Statistics.

The Population of the District at the Census of 1921				was	6,830
“	“	“	“	1911	“ 7,066
“	“	“	“	1901	“ 6,888
The Area (in Acres)			“	1921	“ 22,954
The number of inhabited houses			“	1921	“ 1,717
“	“	“	“	1911	“ 1,703
“	“	“	“	1901	“ 1,615
“	Families or				
	Separate Occupiers			“ 1921	“ 1,730
Average Population per house			“	1921	“ 3·9
“	“	“	“	1911	“ 4·15
“	“	“	“	1901	“ 4·3

Natural and Social Conditions.

This, which lies at the north-eastern corner of my Combined District, is situated entirely within the County of Essex.

It is roughly square in shape, with a projecting portion (the two Hallingburys) at its south-eastern corner. From East to West it is about 6 miles and North to South 8 miles in extent.

It varies in height from 400ft. (in the parish of Berden) to 200ft. (near Bishops Stortford) above sea level. The land falls both from West and East to the valley of the Stort, which, flowing from North to South, divides the district into two unequal parts. One-third roughly is to the West and the other two-thirds to the East of it. The river is not navigable for barge traffic above Bishop's Stortford.

The soil varies and consists of gravel or loam overlying the chalk in the western portion and stiff clay for a considerable depth in the north-eastern (Henham).

The industry of the district is purely agricultural. There is a large glasshouse industry near Stansted.

1. General Statistics.

Area	...	...	...	...	...	...	22,954 Acres.
Population (Census 1921)	...	...	...	...	...	...	6,830
Population (estimated by Registrar General)	...	...	...	...	...	...	6,914
Number of inhabited Houses (Census 1921)	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,717
Number of Families or separate Occupiers (Census 1921)	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,730
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	...	£57,014
Sum represented by a penny Rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	£198 3s. 7d.

2. Extracts from Vital Statistics.

FOR THE YEAR 1925.

Birth Rate (per 1,000 population)				...	...	...	...	14·6		
Death Rate (per 1,000 population)				...	...	...	...	10·1		
Infant Death Rate (per 1,000 births)				...	...	...	...	29·7		
				Male.	Female.	Total.				
Births	...	{	legitimate	...	50	46	96	101		
			illegitimate	...	1	4	5			
Infant Deaths		{	legitimate	...	2	1	3	3		
			illegitimate	...	—	—	—			
Total Deaths				...	...	...	37	33	70	70
Deaths of Women during Childbirth				...	{ (a) from Sepsis (b) from other causes				1 nil.	
Deaths from Measles				..	...	...	...	...	...	nil.
„	„	Whooping Cough		...	...	...	...	...	...	nil.
„	„	Diarrhoea (under two years of age)				...	...	...	...	nil.
„	„	Cancer	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	18
„	„	Phthisis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4

Of the total number of deaths (70), 45 were of persons 65 years of age and upwards, viz.:—six between 65 and 70, twenty-two between 70 and 80, twelve between 80 and 90, and five over 90.

Causes of Death (Civilians only) during 1925.

						MALES.	FEMALES.
ALL CAUSES	...	...	...	...	...	37	33
1. Enteric Fever...	...	...	...	...	...
2. Small-pox	...	...	...	...	...
3. Measles	...	...	...	...	...
4. Scarlet Fever...	...	...	...	...	...
5. Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...
6. Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...
7. Influenza	...	...	...	...	...		1
8. Encephalitis Lethargica	...	...	...	...	...
9. Meningococcal Meningitis	...	...	...	...	...
10. Tuberculosis of Respiratory system	...	...	...	...	...	2	2
11. Other Tuberculous Diseases	...	...	...	...	...
12. Cancer, malignant disease	...	...	...	...	...	11	7
13. Rheumatic Fever	...	...	...	...	...
14. Diabetes	...	...	...	...	...	1	
15. Cerebral Hæmorrhage	...	...	...	...	...	2	3
16. Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	...	4	8
17. Arterio-sclerosis	...	...	...	...	...	3	
18. Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	3	2
19. Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	3	
20. Other respiratory diseases	...	...	...	...	...
21. Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	...	...	...	...	...
22. Diarrhœa (under two years)	...	...	...	...	...
23. Appendicitis	...	...	...	...	...
24. Cirrhosis of liver	...	...	...	...	...
25. Acute and chronic Nephritis	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
26. Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	...	...	...		1
27. Accidents and Diseases of Parturition	...	...	...	...	...
28. Congenital Debility, Premature Birth, &c.	...	...	...	...	...
29. Suicide	...	...	...	...	...
30. Other deaths from Violence	...	...	...	...	...
31. Other defined Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	7	8
32. Causes ill-defined or unknown	...	...	...	...	...
Special Causes (included above)	...	...	...	...	...
Polio-myelitis	...	...	...	...	...
Polio-Encephalitis	...	...	...	...	...
Anthrax	...	...	...	...	...
Leprosy	...	...	...	...	...

Vital Statistics.

The Vital Statistics may be considered fairly satisfactory. Against a very low Birth Rate can be set a very low Death Rate. The births exceeded the deaths by 31. The Infant Mortality figure, too, is very satisfactory. There have only been 4 deaths of Infants in two years, the total births for the same period numbering 210. There was a high Cancer death rate but there were no deaths from the principal Zymotic Diseases which include Diarrhœa.

The following figures may prove of interest. In the first place are given the *actual number* of births, deaths, etc., as it is often difficult to correctly estimate a population during the intercensus periods:—

	Year	1925	Average 5 years 1920-1924	Average 5 years 1915-1919	Average 15 years 1900-1914
Births	...	101	127	106	141·8
Deaths	...	70	81·4	92·6	91·5
Infant Deaths		3	5·4	7·2	12·2
Phthisis	„	4	3·6	5·6	4·3
Cancer	„	18	11·2	11·4	7·1
Zymotic	„	nil.	0·8	3·4	—
Diarrhœa	„	nil.	0·2	0·8	—

The following gives the average Rate per 1,000 Population, or in the case of the Infant Mortality per 1,000 Births, for the 5 years, 1920-1924.

Birth Rate	...	...	18·7 per 1000 Population.
Death Rate	...	...	11·9 „ „ „
Infant Death Rate	...	...	42·4 „ 1000 Births.
Phthisis	„	„	0·53 „ 1000 Population.
Cancer	„	„	1·6 „ „ „
Zymotic	„	„	0·11 „ „ „
Diarrhœa Death Rate			0·02 „ „

The amount of *Poor Law Relief* is remaining fairly stationary.

General Provision of Health Services in the Area.

Hospitals. There is no hospital in the district. The sick are treated either at the Bishop's Stortford Hospital, the Workhouse Infirmary or sometimes at Cambridge. The Isolation Hospital is at Stortford and that for Small Pox between Stortford and Hadham. There is a motor ambulance in connection with the Isolation Hospital.

Clinics and Treatment Centres. A Child Welfare Centre has been established at Stansted. The Essex County Council undertake the treatment of Tuberculosis and Venereal diseases.

Public Health Officers. These consist of a Medical Officer of Health (who acts for a Combined District) and a Sanitary Inspector who is also Surveyor. He acts in a similar capacity for Hadham Rural District. Contributions are made to the salaries of both these officers from Exchequer grants. The Surveyor is supplied with an Assistant.

PROFESSIONAL NURSING IN THE HOME.

The County Council have provided one Health Visitor for the district who undertakes the work of the School and Tuberculosis Nursing and Health Visiting under the Notification of Births Act. These latter duties were taken over by the County Council on July 1st, 1921.

Midwives. The number of Midwives practising in the district is six.

Chemical Work. The Essex County Council have made arrangements whereby Medical Practitioners may obtain free of charge under certain conditions examination of specimens of blood, cerebro-spinal fluid, fæces, food, gastric contents, hair and skin, milk, pleural, etc., fluids, pus, sputum, swabs, and urine. These are sent to a laboratory in London.

Legislation in Force. There are no local Acts in force in the district. Certain Urban powers have been adopted for the Parish of Stansted.

Sanitary Circumstances of the District.

WATER SUPPLY.—Stansted is supplied by a Private Water Company from a deep well sunk in the chalk. Water mains, also belonging to a private Company, pass through Little Hallingbury and part of Great Hallingbury and afford a supply to some of the houses in both these parishes. These are the only public supplies in the district. All the other villages are supplied by wells, many of them of the shallow variety. These are never satisfactory owing to the possibility of pollution from surface contamination.

DRAINAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.—The only drainage system in use in the district is at Stansted where the Liernur system has been installed. It is fairly satisfactory but a small portion of it has had

to be relaid. Twelve further houses have been connected with it during the year. The sewage farm is to the south of the village. Here the sewage, after passing through the sludge and septic tanks, is brought into contact by means of automatic sprinklers with filters and then treated on the land by broad irrigation.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.—The river Stort, as a tributary of the Lea, is under the supervision and control of the Lea Conservancy Board.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.—At Stansted, W.C.'s are available, elsewhere in the district Pail Closets are in general use. Very few old pit closets now remain.

SCAVENGING.—The only public Scavenging is carried out at Stansted. The refuse is carted to an old disused chalk pit about 1 mile west of the village.

House refuse in other parts of the district is put on to the gardens.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

Report of the Sanitary Inspector for the Year 1925.

The particulars of inspections and action taken, are as follows:—

GENERAL INFORMATION.

Dwelling Houses inspected	...	...	...	507
Registered and Licensed Premises inspected	...			72
Number of Informal Notices served	...	...		53
Number of Statutory Notices served	...	...		1
Number of Prosecutions	...	...	...	—
Number of houses erected	...	...	...	17
Number of houses connected with water mains				15
Number of houses connected with sewers				12
Number of Houses disinfected	...	...	...	17

PREMISES CONTROLLED BY BYE-LAWS.

There are no Common Lodging Houses in the district. For other premises see para. "Food."

SCHOOLS.—The schools at Stansted have water laid on and are connected with the sewer. The rest are provided with pail closets and obtain their water from wells.

Housing.

I. General Housing Conditions.

2a. There is still a demand for cottages with a rental which an agricultural labourer could afford to pay.

2b. In 1921-22 the Council erected 58 houses in various parishes throughout the district. There is no difficulty in keeping these let. In addition to these some 54 cottages and 8 houses have been built by private enterprise and alterations and additions made to 23 others. The Council do not at the present anticipate erecting any more Council Cottages.

3. There are no signs of any important change in the population in the near future.

II. OVERCROWDING. Isolated cases of overcrowding are at times reported but this appears to be by no means general. It occasionally arises from married sons or daughters going to live with their parents, or sometimes tenants take in lodgers so as to assist in paying the rent. Such cases can usually be dealt with.

III. FITNESS OF HOUSES.

a. The general standard of houses may be considered fair.

There are, of course, old cottages in the district which would be better demolished.

b. The most common defects noted are dampness due to want of damp courses or sometimes defective roofs, insufficient height of rooms and window area.

c. The defects are usually constructional.

2. & 3. At the present time it is difficult to recommend the closing or demolition of cottages until cheap cottages are available for the displaced tenants. Such minor improvements as can reasonably be called for are carried out.

IV. There does not appear to be any unhealthy area in the district.

V. There are no bye-laws in force with regard to houses let in lodgings.

Housing Statistics.

For the Year
1925

Number of new houses erected—

(a) Totals 17

(b) Part of Housing Scheme —

Assisted by subsidy ... —

UNFIT DWELLING HOUSES.

I. Inspection.

Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) 323

Number of dwelling houses which were inspected and recorded under “The Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910” 200

Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation (D.89.) 1

Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ... 4

II. Remedy of Defects without service of formal notice.

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers ... 8

III. Action under Statutory Powers.

A. Proceedings under Sec. 3 of “The Housing Act, 1925.”

Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ... 1

Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit :—

(a) by owners 1

(b) by Local Authority in default of owners nil.

Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by the owners of intention to close	nil.
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B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	nil.
---	------

(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied :—

(a) by owners	nil.
----------------------	------

(b) by Local Authority in default of owners	nil.
---	------

C. Proceedings under secs. 11, 14 and 15 of "The Housing Act, 1925."

1. Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders	nil.
---	------

2. Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made ...	nil.
---	------

3. Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling houses having been made fit	nil.
---	------

4. Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ...	nil.
--	------

5. Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ...	nil.
---	------

Food.

MILK.

The supply of milk throughout the district has been satisfactorily maintained.

The number of Cowsheds and Dairies registered in the District is now 36 as compared with 33 in 1924 and 31 in 1922. They have been regularly inspected and were found to be fairly well kept and clean.

MEAT.

The number of Slaughterhouses in the district at different dates was as follows :—

	<i>in 1920.</i>	<i>in January, 1925.</i>	<i>December, 1925.</i>
Registered	2	2	2
Licensed	—	—	2
	—	—	—
Total	2	2	4
	—	—	—

In addition to these there are two licensed knackers' yards.

Difficulties have been experienced in strictly carrying out the new Meat Regulations with regard to inspection. So long as there are private slaughterhouses scattered over a district in some of which killing is proceeding at one and the same time this difficulty will remain. Generally the butchers have been willing to co-operate and have notified the times of slaughter. Various visits of inspection, as far as possible when slaughtering is taking place, have been carried out. This has involved a great deal of time. No diseased meat has been found.

Bakehouses.

These number nine. They have been regularly inspected and found to be in a satisfactory condition.

Report for the year 1925 on the administration of the Factory and Workshops Act, 1901.

List of Workshops on Register, 1925.

Brewers	...	...	1	Tailors	...	...	2
Smiths	...	...	8	Harnessmakers	...	...	1
Wheelwrights	...	...	4	Dressmakers	...	...	1
Cycle Repairer	...	...	1	Builders	...	...	4
Bootmakers	...	...	2	Engineer	...	...	1
Laundry	...	...	1	Electrical	...	...	1
			Brickmaker	...	...	1	

“Factory and Workshops Act, 1901.”

1.—INSPECTION OF FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

Premises.	Number of		
	Inspections	Written Notices	Prosecutions
Factories including Factory			
Laundries	2		
Workshops including Workshop			
Laundries	31	2	
Workplaces other than out- workers' premises			
Total	33	2	

**2.—DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND
WORKPLACES.**

Particulars	Number of Defects			Number of Prosecutions
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H M. Inspector	
Nuisances under the Public Health Acts:—				
Want of Cleanliness				
Want of Ventilation... ..				
Overcrowding				
Want of drainage of floors ...	1	1		
Other nuisances				
Sanitary accommodation:—				
Insufficient	1	1		
Unsuitable or defective ...				
Not separate for sexes ...				
Offences under the Factory and Workshops Acts:—				
Illegal occupation of under-ground bakehouse (s. 101)				
Other Offences				
Total	2	2		

Infectious Disease.

The following Table shows the notifications received of the principal infectious diseases during the period 1920-1924 :—

		1920	1921	1922	1923	1924
Scarlet Fever	...	5	43	35	4	8
Diphtheria	... ..	5	5	4	1	1
Enteric Fever	...	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	... ..	2	3	2	2	1
Puerperal Fever	...	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthal. Neon.	...	—	—	—	—	—

The above figures do not appear to call for any special comment. It shows, however, how Scarlet Fever often seems to come in more or less regular waves with periods of intermission.

Diphtheria anti-toxin is kept at the Isolation Hospital at Bishop's Stortford and is promptly administered on the admission of a diphtheria patient. Practically all cases are removed to hospital.

Subjoined is a Table of the Infectious Notifications received during 1925.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES, 1925.

155

	At all ages	Under 1 year	1-2 years	2-3 years	3-4 years	4-5 years	5-10 years	10-15 years	15-20 years	20-35 years	35-45 years	45-65 years	65 years & over	Removed to Hospital	Treated in School Sanatorium	Nursed at home	Died
Small-pox ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever	6	...	...	...	...	...	2	2	...	2	...	...	...	6	...	...	...
Enteric Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Fever	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pneumonia ...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
Malaria ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Dysentery ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Trench Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cerebro-spinal Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Polio-myelitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Encephalitis Lethargica	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	9	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	5	...	...	6	...	...	2
Other Tuberculosis	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...

Infectious Diseases.

Six notifications of Scarlet Fever were received as compared with eight in 1924.

Three of the patients resided at Farnham (father and child in one case), two at Birchanger and one at Stansted. All were removed to hospital.

There were no cases of either Diphtheria or Enteric Fever.

Tuberculosis.

During the year 10 notifications of Tuberculosis were received, 6 on Form A (by Medical Practitioners), 2 on Form C and 2 on Form D (from Sanatoria).

Of these ten cases, 9 were pulmonary (3 males and 6 females) and 1 non-pulmonary (male). Of the 9 non-pulmonary cases 6 were treated in a Sanatorium. Two died.

The non-pulmonary case received hospital treatment.

The total number of deaths during the year from Tuberculosis was four. These were all pulmonary cases.

No action has been necessary under either the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, or the Public Health Act, 1925, Sec. 62.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

ROBERT AYTON DUNN.

